Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 31 | THURSDAY JANUARY 31, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the U.S. Labor report that further increasing the minimum wage will hurt the local economy?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Parents' Month

February 2008 marks the observance of the fifth annual Parent Leadership Month, during which parents will once again be recognized.

LOCAL...Page 6

McCain Surges

Sen. John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida primary, seizing the upper hand in the Republican presidential race.

NATION...Page 16

In Rehab

Sean Young has entered rehabilitation for alcohol abuse following a weekend outburst.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

February is Parent Leadership Month. **PAGE 6**

Seaport manager is acting CPA chief. **PAGE 3**

Arenovski welcomes Labor report, Eni's bill

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Arenovski

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James T Arenovski is elated with the recent Department of Labor report about the adverse effect any future minimum wage increase would have on the islands.

In a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the president of Delta Management Corp. also said that the Chamber doesn't have an official position yet on the Labor report as they only received the document Tuesday night. He, however, assured members that they will submit their opinion on the report as soon as possible.

See ARENOVSKI on Page 4

New bill seeks to modify minimum wage increase

American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega has introduced a bill in Congress to amend the federal minimum wage law and allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to prevent the mandated wage hikes from damaging the CNMI and American Samoa economies.

Faleomavaega

Specifically, Faleomavaega's bill, H.R. 5154, proposes to modify existing federal minimum wage law to allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to adjust federal wage increases based on an objective determi-

See NEW BILL on Page 4

NEW TARO VARIETY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Almost a hundred farmers and community members participate in the tasting and testing of different cultivars of taro and sweet potato during yesterday's Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service field day at the newly established Agriculture Experiment Station in As Perdido.

NMI residents to get rebates

CNMI residents and those of other territories will be receiving the tax rebates included in the economic stimulus package announced by President Bush and U.S. House leadership last week, according to Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio.

RELATED NEWS

House approves economic recovery plan.

PAGE 13

If signed into law, families would receive tax rebates of up to $600 per individual, and $1,200 per couple, plus $300 per child. It is projected that taxpayers in the CNMI could collectively receive

See NMI on Page 4

New budget submission: $160.1M

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has resubmitted a $160.1-million budgetary resource estimate for fiscal year 2008, leaving out over $8 million in grant and "reprogrammable" funds included in his previous projection.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration opted to exclude from its estimate the resources outside the General Fund. The governor's previ-

See NEW BUDGET on Page 4

Local

OPA spends below its budget by $1.5M

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor reports that it underspent its budget by $1.5 million in fiscal year 2007.

OPA received $3.1 million for the period between Oct. 1, 2006 and Sept. 30, 2007. But it spent only $1.6 million.

It was the second time in the past three years that OPA reported a surplus. In FY2006, OPA had excess funds amounting to $580,000. The agency had a budget of $2.2 million and spent $1.6 million that year.

In its latest annual report, OPA said that 72 percent, or $1.17 million of its FY2007 budget was spent on personnel expenses.

The other 28 percent, or $470,000, was spent on all other expenses. This includes $300,000 for professional services, such as payment for the CNMI government-wide single audit.

OPA had a total of 20 employees by the end of 2007, down from 29 in 2006. OPA has significantly reduced its payroll from a peak of 39 personnel in 2000.

Constitutional and statutory provisions guarantee funding for OPA. Under the law, OPA receives 1 percent of all local appropriations and is authorized to receive 1 percent of the operations budgets of all public corporations and autonomous agencies.

While this funding guarantee has averaged approximately $3.23 million a year, OPA's budget submissions have historically been less.

In 2007, OPA facilitated the jobs study, which determined whether there are jobs held by foreign workers that could be filled by qualified residents.

The agency conducted reviews of the Managaha landing and user fees and exemptions from the government austerity holidays. OPA also helped evaluate the Department of Public Health's hemodialysis center project.

DPH holds health screening at Legislature

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health conducted a health screening at the Commonwealth Legislature yesterday.

DPH Diabetes and Prevention Control manager Tayna Belyeu-Camacho said the health screening "went very well."

At least 50 members of the Legislature, including some lawmakers, participated in the

See DPH on Page 4

Saipan's
Sport Utility Vehicle Headquarters

SUV #1 DEALER

HYUNDAI TUCSON

HYUNDAI VERACRUZ

HYUNDAI SANTA FE

SUZUKI XL-7

All New For 2008!

MITSUBISHI MOTORS OUTLANDER

MAZDA CX-7

MAZDA CX-9

PRICES STARTING AT ONLY $17,995 OR $147 PER PAYCHECK!*

Customers First TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J MOTORS
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm
Tel: 234-7133 • Fax: 234-3052
Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau

TRIPLE J CAR MART
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-5pm
Tel: 235-5065/6 • Fax: 234-2326
Middle Road, Chalan Kiya

*On approved credit (O.A.C.). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Starting price of $17,995.00 less 20% down payment or trade-in equity financed at 11.75% A.P.R. for 60 months at $147 per paycheck for a total of 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price $19,105.20. #1 in Total SUV sales for 2007.

Seaport manager is acting CPA chief

Seaport manager Lee Cabrera has been designated to serve as acting executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA board chair Rex I. Palacios made the appointment on Tuesday, following the resignation of Stanley C. Torres Jr.

Palacios said Cabrera's temporary appointment will remain in effect indefinitely.

Cabrera had assumed the management position previously. He was appointed to replace former executive director Carlos H. Salas, who retired in 2006. But Cabrera subsequently opted to return to his post at the Port of Saipan.

Torres, who had been CPA's acting executive director for the past 10 months, retired on Monday, citing personal reasons. He also resigned as chief of CPA's aircraft rescue and firefighting division.

Torres served CPA for 15 years, holding positions in aircraft rescue and fire fighting, aviation, and maritime. But he made his greatest contribution to the ports authority during his stint as fire chief. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center. The facility has trained and certified numerous fire personnel from all over Micronesia. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

AGO files charges vs 3 for poker robberies

The Attorney General's Office filed charges yesterday against two ex-convicts and another man for allegedly robbing three poker arcades on Saipan last year.

Marlon Martin, 24, and Steven Suzuki, 23, both ex-convicts, and Quincy Oiterong, 31, were charged with conspiracy to commit robbery.

Martin was also charged with two counts of robbery, while Oiterong was slapped with accessory after the fact and robbery as principal charges.

Chief Prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr. stated in the charging information that the three conspired to rob MGM Poker in Kannat Tabla on June 6, 2007.

Warfield said Martin robbed the Grand Poker in Koblerville on May 25, 2007, and the Moon Night Poker in Chalan Kanoa on June 1, 2007.

The chief prosecutor said Oiterong assisted Martin in the Grand Poker robbery and also aided or commanded the commission of robbery at the Moon Night Poker.

Police arrested the three defendants in June 2007 for allegedly attempting to rob Susupe Poker. Detectives then learned that the defendants were also involved in other poker robbery cases.

Martin and Suzuki used a machete each time they staged a robbery, according to a detective in his report filed in the Superior Court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Mobil president says CUC caused fuel supply holdup

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. should be blamed and not Mobil Oil over the delays in fuel delivery at two power plants on Saipan that triggered sudden rotating outages throughout the island on Monday.

According to Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. president Kamal Singh, the delays in fuel delivery were not caused by Mobil's failure to deliver fuel to CUC, but the utility agency's failure to submit their fuel order in a timely manner.

Singh said he is responding to CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis' comments suggesting that Mobil was slow in approving delivery.

"In fact, Mobil delivered fuel approximately three hours after CUC's request, which was outside of its normal delivery procedures," said Singh in a statement issued yesterday.

Monday's outage started at 5am. All power was restored by 1:15pm.

Mathi had said that, although requests and payment for fuel were facilitated early Monday morning, Mobil Oil Guam did not approve delivery until 12 noon.

But the Mobil Oil president pointed out that their customers are aware of the company's ordering and delivery procedures.

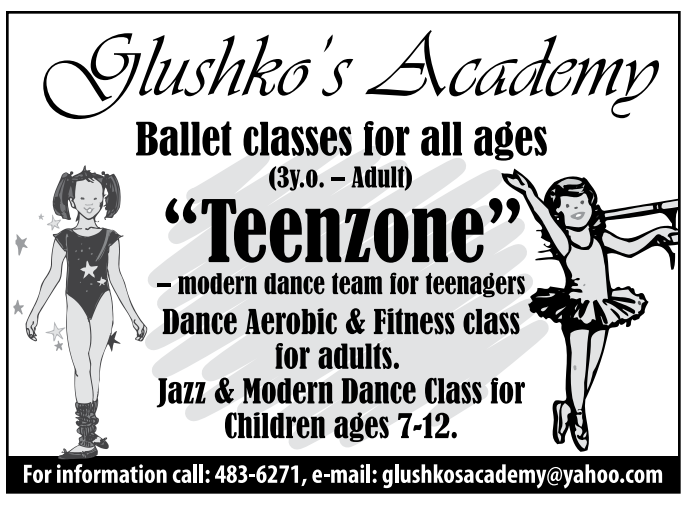
"This procedure requires customers to place an order for supply 24 hours prior to delivery. This is to ensure proper scheduling and delivery of product to our customers," he said.

Singh said they recognize the sensitivity of keeping the power on for customers and that Mobil has made every effort to accommodate CUC's last minute request.

To ensure CUC has adequate fuel supply to prevent future outages, Singh said they suggest that the utility agency order its fuel requirements in a timely manner and not place the fault on its supplier.

"Mobil will continue to work with CUC's management on supply to the Commonwealth," he added. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

LISTEN TO
Uncle
Dave & Harry
Discuss island topics, tourism, traffic reports, community events, business & economics.
Every Friday, "Island Issues"
Listen to FM 103.9, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.



NEW BUDGET

From Page 1

ous submission identified as available for appropriation some $5.17 million in Compact Impact funding and $3.5 million in earmarked funds.

"We prefer the lower figure because it is more responsible, more realistic. We are staying on the side of caution. The 'outside sources' will serve as contingency fund, since we may not be able to use them without authorization from the Department of the Interior," Reyes said.

The Legislature will use the governor's budget estimate to establish a spending limit for the current fiscal year.

According to the Finance Department, total estimated operating resources in FY2008 are estimated to be $171.368 million. However, some $11.268 million has been earmarked for debt service payments and various programs.

This leaves the general fund with only $160.1 million, a decline of $3.185 million from the revised FY2007 revenue projection.

DOF's projection is based on several assumptions. One is that the mandatory payment of nonresident worker fees to Northern Marianas College and the Public School System, as well as the payment of 10 percent of gaming jackpot tax to PSS, will remain on hold.

It also assumes that laws earmarking 10 percent of General Fund poker fees to the Workforce Investment Agency and 50 percent to the NMI Retirement Fund will continue to be suspended.

The estimate also includes portions of the hotel occupancy and alcoholic beverage container taxes that otherwise should go to Marianas Visitors Authority and the Retirement Fund.

Furthermore, the projection includes some $2.76 million saved from the government's recent refunding of its $60-million and $40-million bonds. The refinancing resulted in debt service savings.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Birthday greeting go out to our wonderful mom and grandmother, Rosie Ogo of Rota, who is celebrating her birthday today, Jan. 31, 2008. This greetings comes from Julie, Ross, Kroy and your grandchildren on Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPH

From Page 2

screening.

"It was a really good response. Now all we need to do is compile all our findings together," Belyeu-Camacho said.

Rep. Ed Salas was one of CNMI's leaders who took part in the health screening.

"The results was really no surprise to me because I knew I was a little bit overweight," Salas said.

He explained that he had not exercised regularly in over four months but plans on going back to it.

"A lot of our people are obese. This leads to high-risk for diabetes and other diseases. I think it's important that more people become aware of the importance of healthy nutrition and lifestyles," Salas said.

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition earlier conducted health screenings in various locations and one was at the Governor's Office.

According to the 2007 November Health Screening results, 11 people were tested for their blood sugar: 45 percent had a high probability of diabetes, 45 percent had a medium probability of diabetes, while only 1 percent had normal results.

At the Department of Labor and Immigration Division, 45 people had their blood pressure taken. About 19 percent had the possibility of pre-hypertension, 19 percent had the possibility of being hypertensive, and 16 percent had normal results.

According to CDC chair George Cruz, "The average cost to manage hemodialysis patients is close to $9 million dollars each year. Leaders need to set an example."

NMI

From Page 1

more that $15 million.

The bill, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday, includes sections that outline how the tax rebate payments will be made to territorial residents.

"We wanted to make sure that territorial residents not only benefited from the rebates, but that the CNMI and other territorial governments were not solely responsible for paying the rebates," said Tenorio.

Working with Delegates Madeleine Bordallo from Guam, Eni Faleomavaega from American Samoa, and chairwoman Donna Christensen from the Virgin Islands, Tenorio said he was able to ensure that the rebate payments would not cause irreparable harm to their respective treasuries.

"The bill requires that the rebates be paid this year, and the committee felt that the best way for this to happen in the territories was to make the U.S. Treasury responsible for fully reimbursing each territorial government," Tenorio said.

The U.S. House passed H.R. 5140, or the "Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act of 2008," by a bipartisan vote of 385 to 35 yesterday. The U.S. Senate has been requested to act on it in the near future.

"I do not anticipate that the Senate will remove anything from the bill; however, they may add increases in food stamps which would also help us," said Tenorio.

Tenorio said he has also written to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, "so that he is prepared to enter into discussions with the IRS on how these payments can be made without adversely affecting our already limited cash flow. I have every confidence that he can make arrangements so that our people can receive these checks this summer along with taxpayers in the states."

The legislation is the product of successful talks between President Bush, Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland, and Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio over how best to shape a package to stimulate the economy at this time and to provide immediate relief to working American families.

The provision that requires the federal government to offset this cost to U.S. territories with "mirror tax codes" remained intact in the bill as passed, Bordallo said.

The provision directs the Secretary of the Treasury to make payment to territories with mirror code tax systems the amount equal to the loss that would otherwise be incurred by the local treasury.

This provision was inserted into the bill at the urging of Bordallo and her colleagues representing the other territories. They worked with Pelosi, Hoyer, and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel over the pass few days as the details for the House version of the stimulus package was finalized.

"The tax rebates called for under the bill passed yesterday will help our families cope with the rising costs of living, and the safety provision for our local treasury eases our concerns over the payout of the rebates. The bill passed yesterday says the federal government will cover the costs of the payout by our local treasuries," Bordallo said. "Ultimately, this means our people will benefit from this economic stimulus package and contribute to economic growth."

The rebates would phase out gradually for single taxpayers whose adjusted gross incomes exceeds $75,000 and for couples with incomes over $150,000.

H.R. 5140 also calls for tax cuts for small businesses. The bipartisan plan doubles the amount small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments.

"Small businesses power Guam's economy," said Bordallo. "This bipartisan bill gives businesses incentive to step up investment in their workers, services and products. This is about maintaining confidence in our economy, and the stimulus proposal is good for our families and our economy too on Guam."

Importantly, the bipartisan plan also includes provisions to help families avoid losing their homes to foreclosure. The bill expands affordable mortgage loan opportunities for families at risk of foreclosure through the Federal Housing Administration. To enhance credit availability in the mortgage market, the measure also includes a one-year increase in the loan limits for single family homes from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The bill now moves to the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee has begun developing its own version of an economic stimulus package. Bordallo said she will continue to work with leaders in the Senate to ensure federal coverage of any rebates for the territories that may be a part of a final package sent to Bush. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

ARENOVSKI

From Page 1

Personally, Arenovski said he would have wanted Labor to have been given more time to accomplish the report.

"We're certainly happy that Labor is understanding the situation that we have here in the CNMI. We're very excited [with the report] and happy that someone actually did the study that we've been asking for…but obviously they didn't have a whole bunch of time to do this. It was sort of quick analysis. I think they need more time to do this," he said.

Arenovski also reiterated the Chamber's stand that any future minimum wage increase would be detrimental to the economy, which in the past couple of years has become wobbly.

"I think that, as much as anybody would like to have better wages in the CNMI, everybody has to see that right now is probably not the best time. We're in a critical state," he said. "I'm not saying no to a minimum wage increase entirely, but right this moment is not the best way to do. Maybe, six months down the road," he said.

"It's common knowledge that an increase [in minimum wage] will hurt the businesses more than help the actual employees that would benefit from this. Let's say five guys get raises but I have to let two go because I have to increase the others' wages," added Arenovski.

Aside from his relief in the Labor report, he also said that he fully supports a recent bill introduced by American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega in the U.S. Congress.

He said that, as stated in Faleomavaega's bill, "we should convince the Department of Labor and Congress that we should have a delay and a stay on the minimum wage increases."

In its report submitted to Congress last Friday, the U.S. Department of Labor said that raising the local minimum wage to the federal level would have adverse impacts on employment and lead to additional population declines in the Commonwealth.

Increasing the CNMI wage to $7.25 an hour, the report said, is comparable to raising the U.S. minimum wage to $16.50 an hour.

Faleomavaega's bill— H.R. 515— proposes to modify existing federal minimum wage law to allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to prevent mandated federal minimum wage increases from damaging the CNMI and American Samoa economies. The bill specifically proposes to allow the U.S. Secretary of Labor to adjust federal wage increases based on an objective determination of their potential impact on the island economies, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior and the governments of both the CNMI and American Samoa.

NEW BILL

From Page 1

nation of their potential impact on the island economies, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior and the governments of both the CNMI and American Samoa.

Faleomavaega's bill comes on the heels of a recently released U.S. Labor Department Report expressing concern about the CNMI economy's ability to sustain future federal minimum wage hikes amid a slumping economy.

The report also reached a similar conclusion regarding the imposition of further federal minimum wage hikes on American Samoa, which benefits from a vulnerable tuna canning industry.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial praised Faleomavaega for introducing the measure, saying yesterday that further increasing the minimum wage at this time would have a very detrimental effect on the CNMI and American Samoa economies.

"I thank Congressman Faleomavaega for prudently introducing H.R. 5154 in the U.S. Congress," said Fitial. "I am very happy that the underprivileged and underrepresented U.S. insular areas have a great champion in Congressman Faleomavaega."

Fitial earlier hailed the U.S. Labor report as an objective and rational justification for a modification of existing federal minimum wage law as applied to the CNMI and American Samoa.

"This report justifies what this administration and our local business community have been projecting all along, in view of our current economic situation," Fitial said. "We are in absolute agreement with the assessment that further scheduled minimum wage increases for the CNMI are expected to add further challenges to an already declining economy."

The U.S. Labor report stated that "scheduled minimum wage increases for the CNMI are expected to add further challenges to an already declining economy." The report went on to cite pronounced economic weakness in the CNMI's two major industries: tourism and manufacturing.

Fitial said he is prepared to submit testimony to support H.R. 5154 and protect the CNMI economy from further losses.

The governor hopes the H.R. 5154 can be promptly addressed before the next wage hike takes place. The next federal minimum wage increase for the CNMI is scheduled for May 25, 2008.

According to Fitial, the CNMI's once promising call center industry reportedly has not developed because of scheduled federal minimum wage hikes and some businesses, including apparel factories, have already closed down, in part, because of federal minimum wage hikes in the CNMI. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Man gets eight months for sexually assaulting minor

Superior Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama yesterday imposed an eight-month prison term on a 36-year-old man who sexually assaulted last year a minor who later got pregnant.

After serving the prison term, Jonayed Hossain will be placed on three years probation.

Lizama granted Hossain's request to start serving his sentence at the Department of Corrections in Susupe tomorrow, Friday.

Lizama directed Hossain to pay restitution for all expenses associated with the victim's pregnancy and childbirth.

The judge required the defendant to pay child support until the baby reaches 18 years old.

He also ordered the defendant to pay a $100 fine and $25 assessment fee.

The Attorney General's Office charged Hossain with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the 3rd degree. He signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to sexual assault and battery in the amended information.

According to the plea agreement, Hossain had sex with the minor on April 8, 2007. At that time, the girl was only 16 years old.

The plea agreement recommended zero to eight months' imprisonment.

Lizama noted that the recommendation in the plea agreement is "pretty lenient" because he believes Hossain deserves more than eight months.

The judge told the defendant that he should be grateful for the eight months' prison term because what he did was wrong and was a crime.

According to a police report, the girl admitted she and Hossain had sex more than 10 times. Their sexual relationship reportedly happened when Hossain's wife moved to the U.S. to work.

In other court news, Lizama yesterday ordered a man to spend six months in prison for possession of crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

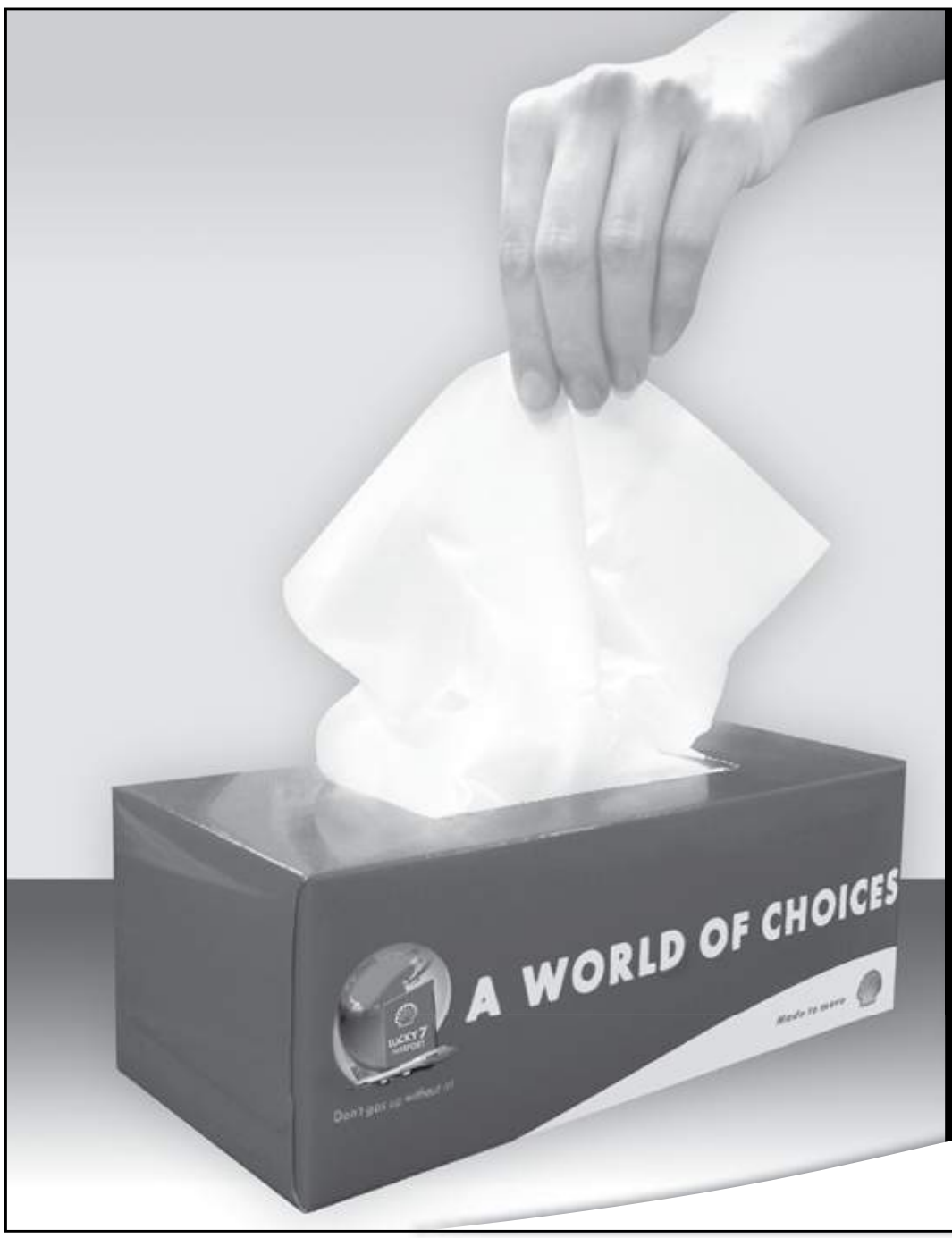
Lizama sentenced the 35-year-old Jesus Cruz Taitano to five years in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for time served.

Taitano will be placed on five years probation and was required to pay a $500 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation service fee.

The government charged the defendant with two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance.

The prosecution alleged that the "ice" trafficking happened on May 11 and 12, 2005. The amount of "ice" was not indicated in the charging information.

Taitano pleaded guilty to one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance on May 11, 2005. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



FREE
TISSUE BOX
with your Lucky 7 Passport

Redeem your Passport and earn your choice of:

- $7 Shell Fuel rewards
- $7 Shell Shop purchase rewards or
- 300 Northwest Airlines® WorldPerks® miles

Plus, receive a **FREE** World of Choices tissue box when you redeem your Lucky 7 Passport today at any Shell service station. **MORE VALUE. MORE CHOICES. MORE FLEXIBILITY. MORE EXCITEMENT.** Only at Shell, we're made to move.

A WORLD OF CHOICES!
Don't gas up without it!

www.shellguam.com

Fitial nixes licensing board's revolving fund

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vetoed a bill creating a revolving fund within the Board of Professional Licensing Board.

Fitial said the proposed legislation was self-contradictory.

He specifically raised concern about a provision which authorizes any balance of the revolving fund to be expended for operations of the licensing board. He said it is contrary to the findings of the legislation, which only indicate annual membership payments with national organizations as the purpose of the account. The findings do not indicate the use of the funds for operations, he added.

"Such inconsistency in the findings and the actual heart of the legislation must be addressed," the governor said.

He urged the 16th Legislature to correct the inconsistencies and reintroduce the bill.

Since the bill was passed by the 15th Legislature, the current set of lawmakers cannot override the governor's veto.

The bill requires that fees collected for licensure within the CNMI be deposited into a special account and be used to pay annual fees with national organizations.

The board is currently in arrears with its membership dues in the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, Western Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and National Council of Engineering Examiners and Surveyors. Because of nonpayment, the board may lose its membership with these national organizations.

"Such organizations are vital in keeping the board up to date with current standards affecting the intricate and complex fields of architecture, engineering, surveying, real estate appraisals, etc.," the 15th Legislature stated in the bill.

They added that the revolving fund must be created to ensure the board has funds to pay its dues.

Commercial Space & Room for Rent

- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Mingli Wholesale), auto-shop, day-care, office, etc. Located in Chalan Laulau between Middle Rd. & Beach Rd. Back of Triple J Auto.
- Room from $80-$140/mo. behind Triple J Auto on Beach Rd. near to XO Market & H-Mart.

Call Ivan @ 235-0479, 285-9966, 9:00am - 6:00pm

February is Parent Leadership Month

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

February 2008 marks the observance of the fifth annual Parent Leadership Month, during which parents will once again be recognized, honored and celebrated for the vital leadership they play in their homes and communities.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, along with Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, led the proclamation signing at the Governor's Office yesterday morning, together with members of the Parent Education Program of the Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

According to Parent Education coordinator Felicidad Ogumoro, the annual event acknowledges the strengths of parents as leaders and generates awareness about the important roles parents play in shaping the lives of their families and communities.

"Our Parent Leadership Month will also highlight the many opportunities available for parents, professionals, policymakers, and other community members to engage in partnerships with the goal of building and supporting strong, safe families," Ogumoro said.

Rota representative Trina Bitone read aloud the proclamation before the endorsement.

She read that the Parent Leadership Program "is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect at home. …The Parent Leadership Program is a necessary component in any effective family strengthening or any family support program."

Parent Leadership Month was founded in February 2004 by Parents Anonymous, which is a non-profit organization established in 1969 and is currently based in Claremont California.

The annual monthlong event expands opportunities for parent leaders to participate in meaningful parents leadership activities, attempts to recognize parent leaders whose contributions have made a positive difference in their families and communities, and attempts to build a successful partnership between Parent Leadership and professionals to strengthen and support families and communities throughout the CNMI.

This year's Parent Leadership theme is "Strengthening Families through Parent Leadership."

Ogumoro said the DYS Parent Education Program and DCCA will collaborate with key public and private organizations to plan and oversee the activities for this year's celebration.

These include yesterday's proclamation signing, the Parent Development Workshops scheduled for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian and the Family Fun Day on March 1, and the resolution signing by Rota Mayor Joseph Inos proclaiming February 2008 as Parent Leadership Month in Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, seated center, pose with parents and DCCA staff members after proclaiming the month of February Parent Leadership Month.

'Adverse loophole' affects teachers' pay

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A handful of teachers in the Public School System who have already passed their PRAXIS requirements have yet to receive any salary increase or bonus because of an "adverse loophole" in the system.

Marianas High School teacher Kenneth H. O'Harnett said that, because he is currently being paid at step 11 of level four of the published Public School System salary schedule, PSS has no reason to pay him any more than what he is earning now.

CNMI PSS acting human resources director Ramon DLG. Diaz Jr. said that because O'Harnett claims that his compensation is set at pay level 4, step 11 and that he did not receive a pay differential, there is a "dual compensation structure" within the teacher's compensation plan.

According to Board of Education Commissioner David Borja, PSS is just following the Highly Qualified Teachers compensation plan that the BOE had approved in July 2006.

"There was a time when an employee of PSS for every year that he is in service, they get a step increase. We don 't do that anymore. Now it's based on certification, degree requirements, and years of service," Borja explained.

Diaz said he reviewed O'Harnett's certification files and found that he currently holds a Standard Teaching Certificate with valid dates of Oct. 2, 2003 through Oct. 1, 2008.

"In order to get compensation with a Standard Teaching Certificate, one would need to get a master's degree," Borja said. O'Harnett holds a bachelor's degree.

According to Diaz, O'Harnett has the option to apply for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

He added that if all requirements are met, O'Harnett will be placed at step 12 of his current pay level 4.

"Accordingly, HRO would request for your compensation to be placed at step 12 (increase of $1,838.16), with possible additional compensation of $420 to bring your total compensation increase to 5 percent," said Diaz.

O'Harnett said he has passed all four required PRAXIS exams with an aggregate score of 746 of 770.

"As a result of my scores, the Educational Testing Service issued a letter of commendation to me and awarded the ETS Certificate of Excellence. I have satisfied all requirements to qualify as an HQT," O'Harnett said.

EMO warns of rough seas today

The Emergency Management Office issued a high-surf advisory yesterday that was in effect until 4pm along north facing reefs in the Marianas region. A small craft advisory for hazardous seas is now in effect through early Thursday morning.

EMO is advising the public to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches as wind and wave conditions support dangerous rip currents. Rip currents are life threatening to anyone entering the water.

EMO said that, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam, a trade wind surge has caused combined seas to rise to small craft advisory heights. North swell are still producing rough seas near the entrance to Agana Boat Basin.

EMO said the north swell will gradually diminish as the week wears on.

Today, east wind us projected to reach 15 to 20 knots, with wind waves of 6 to 7 ft. and north swell of 4 ft and east 5 ft. ***(EMO)***

What makes a real Republican?

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This was the question posed by Republican National Committeewoman Amata Coleman Radewagen during the recent Republican fundraiser held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

"I have read and heard it said over the years that Republicans in the Northern Marianas are not 'real Republicans,'" said Radewagen. "What makes CNMI Republicans any different than any others in the Republican family?"

She pointed out that one could hardly have a wider divergence of views on issues if one looks at the Republican candidates running in the 2008 presidential election.

"Is former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee any more or less a Republican than former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani? Their views on a lot of key issues could not be further apart. Are Mississippi Republicans the same as Massachusetts Republicans? I think not," she said.

Radewagen

Radewagen, who is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, said that what some people fail to appreciate is that the Republican Party is not a monolith.

"As we like to say, we are the party of the big tent. In fact, the national party comes together only once every four years: at a convention to nominate a president."

She explained that the convention then forms a standing committee, called the Republican National Committee, to run the party's affairs between conventions and organize the next convention.

"Each state and territory has three representatives on that committee, regardless of size or political status. The committee does not dictate to the state and territorial parties, which have complete autonomy. There is no national litmus test on what makes a Republican. There is no such thing as being a member of the national Republican Party. Each and every jurisdiction determines who can claim to be a Republican and who can run as a Republican," she said.

Radewagen said that the Republicans in the CNMI are very fortunate "because your party has been the dominant political party in the Northern Marianas for many years. I have a different problem at home because we are not the dominant party," she said.

"In fact, our elections are formally non-partisan. So, people always ask me why I am a Republican when nationally it is the Democrats who are the party of minorities," she said.

Radewagen helped kick off the Republican Party's monthlong process of selecting its delegates to the National Convention.

She currently ranks 6th in seniority on the 168-member Republican National Committee and is the senior national committeewoman in the Western Region.

PACIFIC VISIT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI clergy and nuns led by Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Bishop Tomas. A. Camacho congregate at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Tuesday to welcome Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo and to hear him talk of his visits to the Pacific Islands. Balvo kicked off Catholic Schools' Week Tuesday at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. He was scheduled to visit Rota yesterday and then Tinian today.

Super Breakfast Special
at Southern Cross Bar
Watch the Game and Enjoy our Sumptuous Breakfast Buffet!
Assorted Breakfast Favorites served from 7:30 to 10:30 am
Assorted Beverage for sale at special prices!
Southern Cross Bar
Saipan Grand Hotel
Feb. 4, 2008
Doors Open 7:30am
$20.00 per person / $10.00 kids
Win Exciting Hotel Prizes!
Week End Stay
at Saipan Grand Hotel
Sunday Brunch Gift Certificates
WIN $150 .00 IN CASH
Another exciting offer from the grand!
PEPSI
Coors LIGHT
SAIPANCELL COMMUNICATIONS
The Choice is Clear.
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

Bordallo to deliver congressional address

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo will deliver her biennial Congressional Address to the people of Guam today, Jan. 31, 2008, before the 29th Guam Legislature.

This will be her third address since taking office as Guam's Delegate to Congress in 2003. Her speech will be delivered in the Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall beginning at 6pm.

Bordallo will highlight key issues important to the Guam community and the partnerships she has forged with Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, members of the Guam Legislature, the Mayors, and other local leaders both within the military and civilian sectors, including the business community.

She will focus on the work accomplished during the first session of the 110th Congress—a session governed under a new Democratic majority and the first female Speaker of the House—Rep. Nancy Pelosi—in its history.

Bordallo

H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, and the planning efforts for the military buildup on the island will be principal topics addressed tonight. She will also touch upon the work for an economic stimulus package and the efforts supporting the island's visitor industry through H.R. 3079, the Northern Marianas Immigration, Security and Labor Act.

Bordallo intends to take the opportunity to recognize members of the Guam community who have successfully partnered with federal agencies to leverage federal funds and to improve the overall quality of life on Guam.

She will also focus on the island's youth and pay tribute to the men and women in uniform, and outline the work ahead in the second session of the 110th Congress.

The speech will be aired live on television on KUAM Channel 8, ABC Channel 7, and KGTF Channel 12. The speech will also be aired live on K57 radio with a simulcast on MCV Channel 2. ***(PR)***

Tinian patients' allowance hiked to $300

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill raising from $100 to $300 the allowance for Tinian dialysis and cancer patients.

House Local Bill 15-70 became Tinian Local Law 15-14 after Fitial approved it on Monday, Jan. 28, 2008.

The bill appropriated $10,000 of local poker license fees to fund the $200 increase.

The legislation states that a monthly subsistence allowance of $100 was not enough to cover the expenses of Tinian dialysis and cancer patients who are receiving treatment on Saipan.

The measure instructs the Department of Finance to disburse $300 monthly to each patient.

Rep. Edwin Aldan introduced the measure in the 15th Legislature. The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation passed the bill before it adjourned sine die on Jan. 8, 2008. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Tinian Dynasty
Hotel & Casino
TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER
Island Style
President's Day Weekend
February 16 - 17, 2008
ENTRY FEE: $350.00 (incl. $50 commission)
Includes:
Two Nights Deluxe Accommodation, Roundtrip Ferry Ticket SPN-TIQ
Saturday:
• Registrations closes @ 7.00pm
• Random Seat Allocations @ 7.30pm
• Tournament starts @ 8pm
• One re-buy available for the first three blind levels, regardless of chip stack
• Play will cease at approximately 1am and will continue the following day
Sunday:
• Tournament resumes @ 2pm and continues until Last Man Standing
• Cash games all afternoon
• Awarding Ceremony
DON'T FORGET TO ENTER OUR SATELLITE TOURNAMENTS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN YOUR SEAT IN THIS MAIN EVENT!
• $55.00 Entry - seats and cash to be won!
• Every Friday & Saturday nights from 7:30pm
• Special room rate available for participants!
TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL & CASINO
POKER
The home of Poker in the Pacific
For enquiries, please contact
VIP Services: (670) 328-2285
"Bet with your head not over it"

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 31, 2001

Business owners disgusted with prostitution in Garapan

A Department of Public Safety-commissioned survey conducted from September to December 2000 equally top-billed prostitution and public parking as the most prevalent concern in the Western Garapan district. Majority of survey respondents also listed purse snatching, theft, burglary, sewage, trash bins, closed roads, street market, and littering under the tourist commercial district's 10 most pressing problems.

Construction sector unlikely to grow

The construction industry will be flat and slow in the next two years with business leaders keeping a conservative projection on the growth of the Northern Marianas economy due to current financial situations in the mainland US and in Asia. Business analysts pointed out that unless financing problems and certain government policies are threshed out, and concrete efforts are mapped out, the construction sector is not likely to show any significant signs of growth.

Beautification failed to impress businesses

Some business owners in Western Garapan appear to be resistant to ongoing changes slowly unfolding at the heart of Saipan's busiest commercial district, where several site-enhancement infrastructures including a pedestrian mall are soon to rise. Establishment proprietors within the Western Garapan area yesterday aired concerns on some developments occurring around the vicinity seen to be more of an impediment to their business operations.

January 31, 2002

Saipan shoreline eroding

Saipan's beaches - stretching from Garapan to San Antonio - have eroded over the past several years, according to Coastal Resources Management Office coordinator Benny Pangelinan. Some portions of the Managaha Island, a popular tourist attraction on Saipan, suffered the same doom.

Govt leaders nursing revenue hemorrhage

Scrambling to stem the continued hemorrhage in the Commonwealth's coffers, executive and legislative leaders met yesterday morning to map out strategies that would not only halt the revenue plunge but would also pump up the government's efforts to generate more income. Both leaderships of the House of Representatives and the Senate met separately and reviewed the talking points outlined in the CNMI Fiscal Outlook Report that was prepared by the Office of the Governor, to see which were implementable and which were not.

NMI may cash in on Korean market

Despite the possible negative ripples that may emanate from the unemployment rate hike in Japan, Rep. Francisco DeLeon Guerrero said the CNMI government can still offset this by taking advantage of the strong Korean market. Guerrero, who is chairman of the House Tourism Committee, conceded that the Japanese unemployment rate of 5.6 percent in December would definitely have an effect on the CNMI's tourism sector.

January 31, 2003

NMI officials back Bush policies

Commonwealth officials are rallying behind President Bush's international policy against Iraq, as well as most of his domestic initiatives outlined in the chief executive's constitutionally mandated State of the Union address. Press Secretary Peter Callaghan said the speech showed that the President has good international and domestic plans for the country and that the Bush administration is armed with the leadership skills to accomplish its goals.

House readies to act on $100K security deposit bill

A pro-business initiative is seen to make significant headway in the House of Representatives, as the Commerce Committee finalizes its recommendation to approve the removal of the $100,000 security deposit for long-term business certificate applicants. House Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, however, insisted on the need to safeguard against fly-by-night companies by proposing that House Bill 13-193 require businesses to put up a surety bond, in lieu of the security deposit.

JOETEN'S BEST BUYS OF THE WEEK!

January 31- Feb 6, 2008

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOPPING CENTER

Department Store

ZOJIRUSHI PRODUCTS

Rice Cooker
1.0 Liter $83.99
1.8 Liter $97.99

Air Pot
2.2 Liter $49.99
3 Liter $54.99

Handy Pot
1 Liter $21.99
1.3 Liter $17.99

Supermarket!

New Zealand Beef Clod
$1.99/lb.

Come for more selections

Chicken Leg Quarters 22lb. (Limit 2)
$15.99/cs.

2008 Savings!

POWER 65 Battery

As low as $69.95

Call 234-1179 or Visit Us

Our New Location at Joeten Motors!
Limited offer, while supplies last.

NAPA AUTO PARTS
MARIANAS NAPA, INC.
WE SELL PARTS FOR ALL KINDS OF CARS & TRUCKS

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE

New Arrival! Hot Buy!

Sale!

22" Wagon Grill with 14" Table Grill
$59.99
sku:880003

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-6446 THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.
DANDAN SUPERMARKET TEL.: 235-6016 MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.
HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-7596 MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.
BIG BARGAIN STORE TEL.: 235-5372 MON. THRU SUN. 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.
JOETEN ACE HARDWARE
GUALO RAI BRANCH Gualo Rai Commercial Center Tel.: 235-9322 Fax: 235-9325
SAN VICENTE BRANCH San Vicente Road Tel.: 234-3176 Fax.: 235-1686
SUSUPE BRANCH Susupe Shopping Center Tel.: 234-3117 Fax: 235-7568
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 31

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

John Pangelinan PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Final state

The final State of the Union address of a presidency always has an unavoidable undertone of wistfulness. No matter how convincingly the president pledges to work until the last hour of the last day, the end is already visible on the horizon; most of his achievements and failures have been etched for history's judgment. President Bush's speech this week was necessarily tailored to fit that reality: There were no major new initiatives. Still, the president's advisers said he had decided to offer a forward-looking program, not a reflective valedictory—a wise choice, because an honest assessment of the past seven years would have been a tale of opportunities lost and enterprises bungled.

Mr. Bush understandably turned early in his address to the current economic turbulence and the stimulus package that he and Congress have been working on. The initiative allows both Republicans and Democrats to do to what they like best in an election year: hand out checks to voters. The president urged quick passage of the $150 billion plan that he and House leaders have agreed on, saying it would create half a million jobs this year. He warned that if the Senate were to load up the bill with more spending, "that would delay it or derail it," but he diplomatically stopped short of threatening a veto.

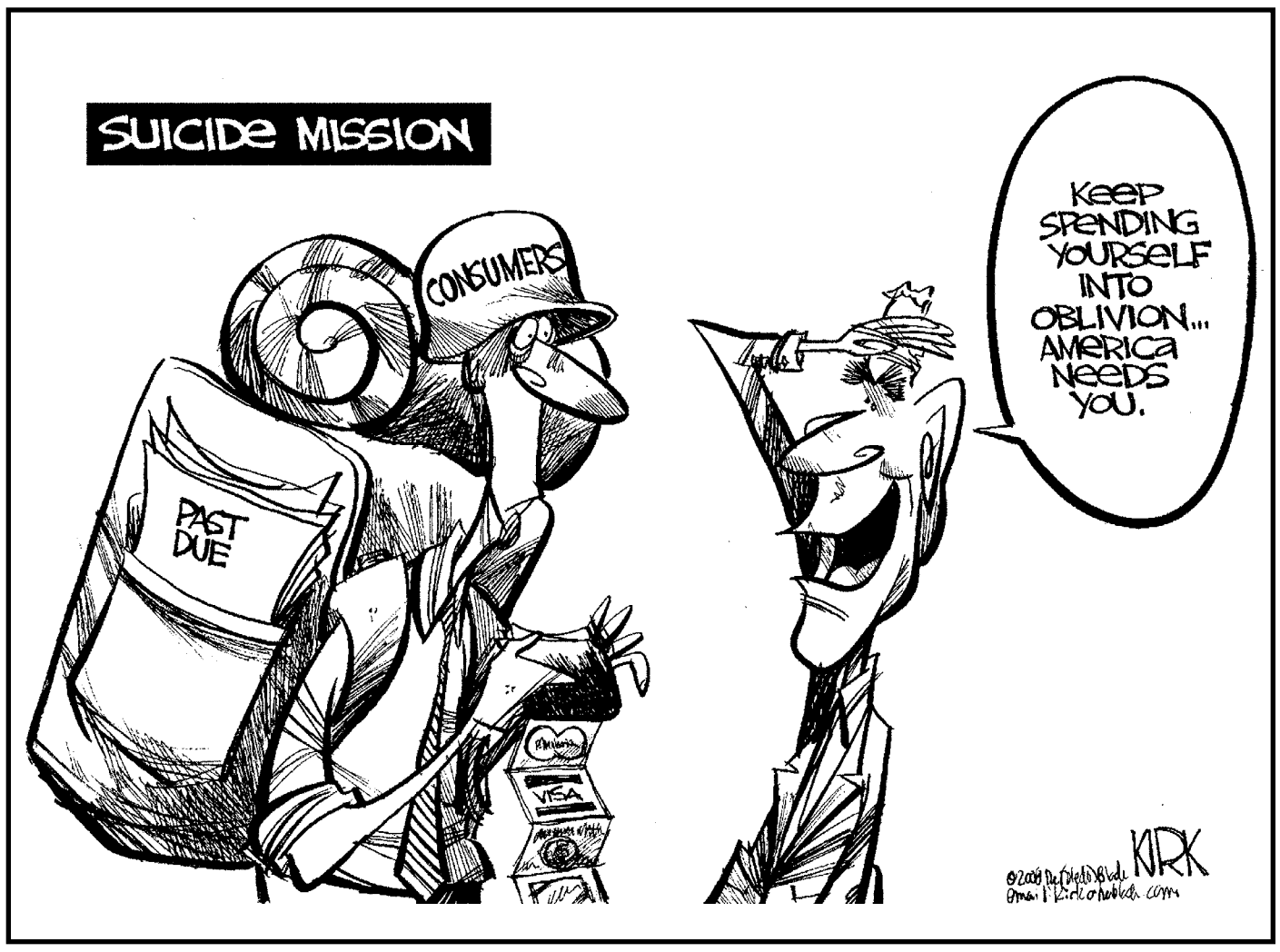
It's possible that the economic relief will be the only significant legislative achievement this year. Mr. Bush urged Congress to show "that Republicans and Democrats can compete for votes and cooperate for results at the same time." But it was hardly a sign of comity that he threatened to veto the temporary extension of a law authorizing surveillance of telephone calls and e-mails that the administration itself sought originally.

Mr. Bush announced a new initiative to crack down on congressional earmarks that would have more force had the president not signed, uncomplainingly, years of spending bills stuffed with ever-rising amounts of pork by a Republican-controlled Congress. He proposed a $300 million "Pell Grants for Kids" program to address the growing number of urban parochial and other private schools that are closing. This is school vouchers by another name, and its prospects in the Democratic-controlled Congress are dim. Much of his speech, similarly, was a wish list of measures that face an uphill battle, such as a strengthening of the No Child Left Behind law and trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, or that will have to be taken up by a future administration and Congress, such as entitlement and immigration reform.

Mr. Bush does have the opportunity to finish with a flourish in foreign affairs. Justifiably promoting the improvement in security in Iraq, he reiterated the administration's plan to "return on success," withdrawing troops this year while trying to preserve and extend the fragile stability that has been achieved. He also restated his hope to help Israelis and Palestinians reach a peace settlement by the end of the year. Curiously, however, the president did not mention North Korea—though there, too, the administration has hoped to complete a landmark deal on disarmament in the coming months.

Mr. Bush endorsed the need for a new international agreement on climate change. But the greatest disappointment of the night was his failure to commit to working with Congress on legislation to create a mandatory carbon emissions reduction system in the United States—without which no international accord will be possible. Like so much else, that, it seems, will have to wait for another president.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Reflection

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at rikv@bizresults.org

We were recently contemplating the current situation of the CNMI and how it's going to play out in the future, and even with the most optimistic crystal ball the picture looks uncertain. The clarion call has been made so many times in the past; however, because too little was done too late, the time for fiscal redemption may be all but past.

Ed Stephens, William Stewart, and others have pointed out issues that desperately need to be addressed to pull the CNMI out of its nosedive. We've contributed some of our ideas in hopes of making a good place to live even better; yet, in the end we feel Mr. Stewart's comment, in last Tuesday's article, summarizes our thoughts when he said: "To my knowledge very few seem interested in connecting the dots. Somewhere along the line a "tipping point" will be reached if it hasn't already arrived…"

In this article, we're going to discuss what will happen if the status quo continues and the "dots" aren't connected soon. Let's take a step back and reflect on the problem, result, and a possible solution.

The Problem: There are a number of contributing factors that have greased the slopes of the CNMI's economic slide over the past decade: the Asian economic crisis, 9/11, WTO lifting import quotas, cancelled airline flights to Saipan, minimum wage increases, and just plain negligence.

Within two years, the garment factories that once made up the bulk of the government revenue will probably be a distant memory. Over half of the garment factories have closed, and the remaining ones are hanging on by a thread. Tourism numbers are dismal and foreign investors seem to be on the endangered list. Korean investors have built some new buildings, but they are yet to be filled.

With the impending federalization "takeover," and the economic reforms taking place in the U.S. to stop the dollar from free falling, it's difficult to predict better times anytime in the very near future.

The Result: Individuals are reluctant to make any long-term plans, or big purchases on such things as a car or home because of the uncertain environment; therefore, car sales will continue to plummet and houses will be difficult to sell.

With lower revenues, the government is reluctant to reduce a bloated workforce, so they'll find ways to further reduce benefits and wages. This will result in higher turnover and a brain drain, as those who have other options will take them. It will also be more difficult to find qualified replacements. Less people means less spending, which translates into a continued reduction in overall sales.

The price of oil has reached an all-time high, which has impacted the cost of practically everything due to increased shipping costs. Rising fuel costs and utility bills take a big bite out of everyone's paycheck. The wage hikes mean businesses have to pay more for hourly workers. All these and other increasing costs will be passed onto customers. People will continue to have a more difficult time to make ends meet, which will put many in greater distress and significantly reduce their discretionary spending.

It's a Catch-22 for many business owners: Raise prices to maintain their margins, but risk losing more sales to the competition or individuals who cannot afford it; or maintain prices as expenses continue to increase to remain competitive, but risk operating at a loss and not being able to make payroll. Many businesses that are caught in the pinch of less sales and increasing costs will be forced to let go of more employees, reduce their hours of operation, turn off air conditioners, or other cost reduction measures to postpone business closure.

The Solution: Working together to come up with better ideas

It's easy to look in hindsight and see the trail that leads us to our current situation. What's more difficult is to look ahead and see which path is the best one to take. Some economic "guides" will rightly tell you to hang on for a bumpy ride that will continue downhill, because we haven't reached bottom yet.

So that brings us to the question, "What can we do?"

We've tried to choose relevant topics that might help you improve in various aspects of your business, but the communication has been basically one-sided. So, we have the ambitious goal of stepping up the process by sending a monthly e-newsletter on a relevant topic to every business that is serious about weathering the storm and emerging from our economic doldrums with a renewed vigor to be even more successful.

Therefore, next week and at the start of each month, we will write about a topic in order to stimulate discussion either within your organization or on a blogspot where you can share your ideas or comment on the thoughts of others. The e-newsletter would be emailed at the beginning of the month, and also appear as the first monthly article in the Saipan Tribune. We will also have surveys to learn your viewpoint, opinion, or interests.

The information, ideas, and latest developments will help you get more from your customers, assets, team and yourself. If you would like the free e-newsletter sent to your business with a link to the blogspot where you can read or post your comments, then email us at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Yes, times are tough, but as long as we work together to collaboratively generate and discuss ideas that are put into action, then solutions can be uncovered that improve your business and personal situation. Many working together as one can turn the tide. Reflection can give us direction.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The seven-year slide

By RAHM EMANUEL
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a Democratic representative from Illinois, is chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

At the dawn of the 21st century, conventional wisdom was that America held unmatched cultural, economic and military power. George F. Will wrote: "It is good to be alive in America at the end of the first (but not the last) American century." In late 1999, Charles Krauthammer wrote: "No other nation has exercised such military, economic, diplomatic and cultural reach since Rome. ... America bestrides the world like a colossus."

Boy, have times changed.

As 2007 drew to a close, a Newsweek International cover featured the image of a bruised Uncle Sam slumped in a boxing ring, under the headline: "Can America Get Back on Top?"

So what happened? How did we go from dominant military, economic and cultural superpower to battered fighter in the corner?

As President Bush prepared to deliver his final State of the Union address Monday, it's fair to judge his tenure by assessing the country he inherited and the country he will leave behind. By any examination, the Bush administration has weakened the nation:

George W. Bush inherited a country with a $236 billion surplus. He engaged in seven years of deficit spending that will leave America with more than $3.5 trillion in new debt.

Bush inherited a middle class whose incomes increased more than $6,000 between 1993 and 2001. Median household incomes have dropped over $1,000 since he took office. During his presidency, health-care premiums have doubled, from about $6,000 to $12,000 per family.

Bush inherited a military that had all active-duty Army divisions rated at the highest readiness levels and that was capable of fighting a two-front war. He will leave behind a military facing the worst readiness crisis in a generation, with not a single active-duty or reserve brigade "fully combat ready."

Bush inherited a nation that was respected on the international stage; he will leave behind one reviled by many around the world. A Pew poll of 10 nations found that in 2001, 58 percent of respondents viewed America favorably; today, that number is 39 percent.

The optimistic predictions of the late 20th century have disappeared. Now Americans and the world are wondering if we can get back on top.

I believe we can. But we must be prepared to rebuild America at home and abroad. At home, we must prepare for the challenges that come with globalization. We need a New Deal for the New Economy—a plan that helps address Americans' economic anxieties and prepares workers for the future.

We must reform the way we educate the next generation of workers to ensure that our nation stays competitive. In an era in which you earn what you learn, America should do more to make college affordable and require all students to receive one year of training after high school—be it at a community college, technical school or university. The GI Bill and universal high school education have proved that investing in human capital yields tremendous dividends.

Building on the successes of covering segments of the population through Medicare, Medicaid, the military's Tricare program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the next two populations on the road to universal health care should be our two most vulnerable groups: children and early retirees.

Support for the development of new energy-efficient technologies could help make energy less expensive for consumers and businesses, help protect the environment, create millions of jobs, and make our nation energy independent. These new energy technologies have the potential to do what the information technology boom has done for our economy during the past 20 years.

Universal savings accounts would give workers more control over their economic future and their retirement. Like 401(k) plans, these accounts would supplement, not supplant, Social Security. Employers and employees would contribute 1 percent of paychecks on a tax-deductible basis, and workers could make additional contributions if they chose.

Overseas, we must begin a responsible redeployment of troops from Iraq and demonstrate to the world that Iraqis must take responsibility for their own country. The redeployment of troops would help end our readiness crisis and would allow our military to rebuild and refocus its efforts in Afghanistan, where al-Qaida and the Taliban are reconstituting.

Our foreign policy should include a diplomatic offensive to win back the international goodwill that has been squandered over the past seven years. And America should take a more aggressive role at the United Nations in the fight against global warming.

Implementing the New Deal for the New Economy, restoring our position on the world stage and changing direction in Iraq won't be easy. Change won't happen overnight. But after eight years of George W. Bush, enacting these domestic initiatives and repairing our foreign policy are essential if we want America to get out of the corner and back to the center of the ring.

Letters to the Editor

Clarifying a warped opinion

ACT supporter Phyllis Ain should have at least waited for the court before deciding to attack me for doing my job. It was obvious she was taking the opportunity to fan the flames of controversy with the same old character assassination to discredit the only person trying to help teachers get their rights. She didn't offer one solution; just attacking me when she should be thanking me for submitting the questions to the Supreme Court.

As for her assertions, they are all lies. Just for clarification, it is on the Board's record that I opposed the implementation of PRAXIS because the sample taken was only 5/8 of 1 percent of all teachers tested that yielded an 80 percent passing rate. I told the board the sample was too small and that 80 percent of the teachers would not pass PRAXIS and I was right. I can't help it if the board didn't follow my advice especially when I didn't have any support from teachers at that time, thanks to ACT. Teachers and ACT didn't do anything until teachers' salaries were cut almost a year later and it was too late then. I did get the board to give teachers help with passing the test and teachers even got paid, which was all I could do. It's sad but I've been saying it all the time that "certain teachers have been teachers' worst enemy" and Ms. Ain is just more public proof. But there is a verse I just love for people like her: "Thou shall prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemy."

I didn't anoint myself as the "teacher savior"; Ms. Ain did, but she won't like it because, if the Supreme Court rules in favor of teachers, I will indeed be the teachers' savior.

As for me bypassing Act's election, Ms. Ain couldn't be father from the truth. I asked the Governor for an election in October 2007 and I informed him then I wouldn't be returning. But I'm not going to stand by and watch a rogue organization, even if they are teachers, destroy an election process that I had worked for over the past six years, especially when the organization has no legal right to conduct an election for the Teacher Rep, as ACT is not and has never been recognized as the exclusive bargaining representative of teachers.

Just for your clarification Ms. Ain, I have been able to overcome the adversity presented by ACT solely because I'm doing the right thing and my efforts have been supported by law. I won't be responding to any more of ACT's attacks until the court makes a decision. So those who are without any fault of your own and haven't done anything to help teachers in their representation like Ms. Ain can continue throwing stones at me if that's what pleases you because teachers will eventually realize they have been listening to warped opinions and sore losers for entirely too long.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep

A better way to deal with downturns

By ANDREW A. SAMWICK
Special to The Washington Post

Andrew Samwick, an economics professor, directs the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College. He served as chief economist on the staff of President Bush's Council of Economic Advisers in 2003-04. He blogs about economics and other issues at http://voxbaby.blogspot.com.

Shortly after House leaders and the White House reached a tentative deal Thursday to stimulate the economy, President Bush hailed the agreement as the result of "patience, determination and good will on all sides." While politically expedient, the stimulus package is unjustified in the short run and harmful in the longer term. We would be better off if "forethought" had figured into Bush's description.

The $150 billion agreement calls for tax rebates to low- and middle-income households as well as business incentives. Doubtless, this will boost economic activity. If you pull levers, you get movement. Personal consumption and business investment will increase relative to what they might otherwise have been. But there is no discussion of repaying the money through higher taxes in the near term. Let's drop the euphemism of "stimulus package" and call this agreement by its proper name: "deficit spending."

It is ironic that additional borrowing is prescribed as the remedy for a malady that arose from unwise borrowing. In recent years, cheap credit and some imprudent lending policies generated excessive consumption and investment in the real estate sector. This boosted economic activity beyond the level that would have prevailed with more sensible policies. That level of economic activity is the starting point for discussion of a recession. If we acknowledge that bad loans fueled the activity, why is it now a widely shared policy objective to maintain that level of activity?

The answer is a combination of three factors. The first is elected officials' fear that they will be punished in November for an economic downturn unless they do "something" to avoid it. Few things precipitate bipartisan agreement so quickly. Using the incomes of future taxpayers to purchase reelection today is irresponsible but common public policy.

The second factor is policymakers' fear that unless "something" is done, a temporary economic downturn could become more protracted. This fear, to the extent that it is justified, is better addressed by the Federal Reserve lowering short-term interest rates, which would stimulate the economy more quickly and comprehensively than would fiscal policy. The Fed did just this on Tuesday. Yet the fiscal-policy lever has been yanked before any data have indicated whether the Fed's stimulus has had its intended effect.

The third factor is the recognition that some households will bear a disproportionate burden of an economic downturn, combined with a belief that "something" should be done to help them. Government has a choice in whom it taxes to finance this relief — other taxpayers today or all taxpayers in the future. That the agreement holds the former group harmless was also praised by Bush. This "stimulus bill" is really $150 billion worth of some future generation's resources appropriated to finance our own consumption. Why are we entitled to pass on this additional debt?

The imperative to do "something" is all the entitlement politicians need. In political arguments, you can't beat something with nothing. But we can learn from this experience to have a better menu of fiscal policy options the next time around. Two changes to our budget policy would go a long way toward that goal.

First, we should rule out deficit spending to finance a consumption binge. As the economy slows, the deficit will widen even without changes in fiscal policy. But an honest budget policy would be calibrated to balance the budget over a complete business cycle. Years of cyclical deficits will be offset by years of cyclical surpluses. As a corollary, we must not waive pay-as-you-go rules that require spending that increases the current deficit to be offset later, when the economy is stronger.

Second, we can plan well in advance. The federal government has a critical role in maintaining and developing public infrastructure, whether in transportation, telecommunications or energy transmission projects. A sensible capital budget would include a prioritized list of projects that need attention. Some would be slated for this year, some for 2009 and so on, over the useful lives of the projects. When economic growth falters, the government would be in a position to move some of the projects from later years into the present year.

This approach to counter-cyclical fiscal policy has several advantages. Perhaps most obvious is that it forces the government to establish priorities for capital projects. It reduces overall expenditures by doing more of the work in times of economic slack, when costs are lower. It also abides by pay-go rules, since projects moved up to 2008 need not be done in 2009. With a little forethought, short-term economic concerns and long-term budget goals need not be in conflict.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲80° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°

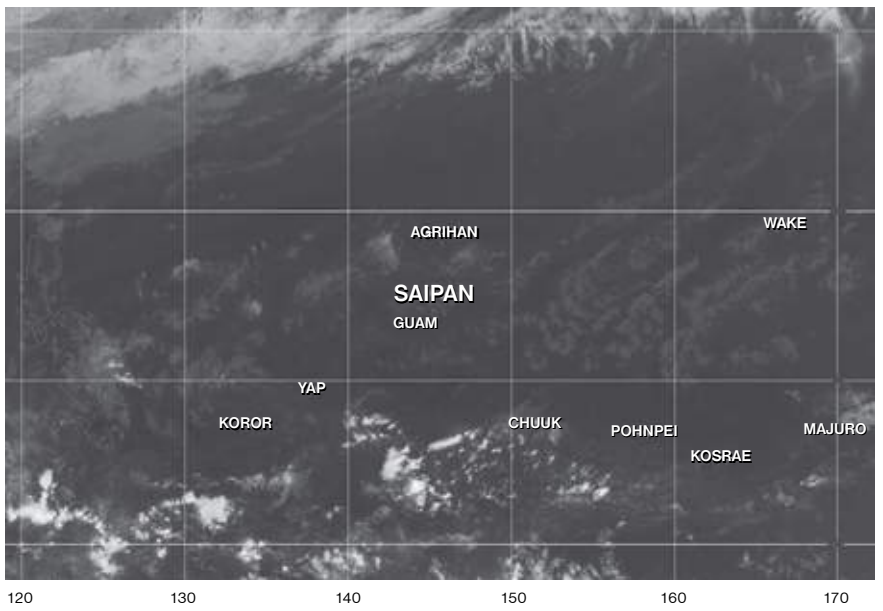
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼74
Palau	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲36	▼19
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲63	▼55
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼69
London	Rain/Snow	▲45	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲64	▼46
Manila	Cloudy	▲90	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼35
Osaka	Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Paris	Rain/Snow	▲42	▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲43	▼24
Rome	Cloudy	▲56	▼42
Salem	Cloudy	▲43	▼34
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲54	▼46
Seoul	Sunny	▲32	▼14
Tokyo	Sunny	▲49	▼32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼33

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers in several area across Micronesia. The first area lies southwest of Palau between the equator and 4N from 130E to 133E. The second area is found well south of the Marianas and south of Pohnpei between 2N and 7N from 141E to 160E. Chuuk is on the northern edge of this area. The third area is located south of Kosrae and Majuro or within 80 miles of a line from 1N162E to 5N172E to 7N180. A cold front cuts across the northwest corner of the discussion area from 23N130E to 25N135E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. A weak surface trough extends northward from 20N170E to beyond 25N at 171E. Trade winds converging east of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Midway Island or north of a line from 22N177E to 22N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
03:22AM Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
07:14AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
01:03PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
09:12PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:14PM
Friday	6:46AM	6:15PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:15PM
Sunday	6:46AM	6:16PM
Monday	6:46AM	6:16PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:46PM	12:16AM
Friday	01:38AM	01:00PM
Saturday	02:30AM	01:48PM
Sunday	03:24AM	02:40PM
Monday	04:16AM	03:35PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 29, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Beijing

CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Beijing-Saipan

CA 987	6:05am	1:55am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

House approves economic recovery plan

Borrowing costs are expected to drop

WASHINGTON (AP)—Individuals and businesses are likely to see their borrowing costs drop further as the Federal Reserve weighs another interest-rate reduction to bolster a sagging economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues opened a two-day meeting Tuesday afternoon to plot their next move on interest rates. The closed-door gathering comes amid growing fears the country is either on the brink of a recession or has already started slipping into one given the strains from a housing market collapse, a global credit crunch and turbulence on Wall Street. The country's last recession was in 2001.

Many economists believe the Fed will lower its key rate, now at 3.5 percent, by as much as one-half percentage point to 3 percent when policymakers wrap up their meeting Wednesday afternoon.

If that scenario plays out, commercial banks would be expected to lower their prime lending rate by a corresponding amount - from 6.5 percent to 6 percent. The prime rate applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other loans.

Stocks advance as investors await Fed

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street advanced sharply Tuesday as the Federal Reserve opened a two-day meeting expected to bring another interest rate cut to revitalize the U.S. economy.

The Fed's rate decision is clearly the market's focus this week, and trading has been marked by investors' conjectures about policymakers' thoughts on the weak economy and crunched financial industry. With an announcement not expected until Wednesday afternoon, the market in the meantime digested data on earnings, consumer spending and durable goods.

Investors did get some encouragement about the economy after the Commerce Department said orders for big-ticket items rose 5.2 percent in December, the widest jump in five months. In addition, the Conference Board reported consumer confidence fell in January - pretty much as expected.

Economic data will continue to be scrutinized as investors try to determine what the Fed's take is on the economy. Investors are angling for a half-point cut following an emergency three-quarter-point cut last week.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 96.41, or 0.78 percent, to 12,480.30. The blue chip index closed near its high of the day.

Broader indexes also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.34, or 0.62 percent, to 1,362.30, and the Nasdaq composite advanced 8.15, or 0.35 percent, to 2,358.06.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FBI probes 14 companies over home loans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI on Tuesday said it is investigating 14 companies for possible accounting fraud, insider trading or other violations in connection with home loans made to risky borrowers. Agency officials did not identify the companies under investigation but said the wide-ranging probe, which began in spring 2007, involves companies across the financial services industry, from mortgage lenders to investment banks that bundle home loans into securities sold to investors. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is working in conjunction with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the corporate-fraud probe, said Neil Power, chief of the FBI's economic crimes unit in Washington.

Yahoo to lay off 1,000 workers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc.'s financial funk deepened at the end of 2007, prompting the slumping Internet icon to draw up plans to lay off as many as 1,000 workers. The Sunnyvale-based company disclosed the upcoming 7 percent reduction in its 14,300-employee work force Tuesday while reviewing a 23 percent drop in fourth-quarter profit and a cautious 2008 outlook. The bad news sent Yahoo shares skidding to their lowest levels in more than four years.

AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., accompanied by House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008, after the House approved and economic stimulus package.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted Tuesday to rush rebates of $600-$1,200 to most taxpayers, but a partisan battle brewed in the Senate over Democrats' efforts to add jobless aid and help for the poor to the economic stimulus package.

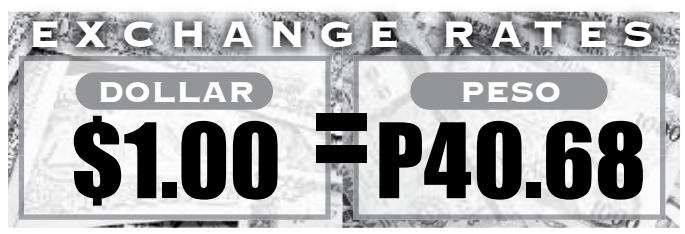
The House plan, approved 385-35 after little debate, would send rebates to some 111 million families and give tax breaks to businesses, costing $161 billion over two years.

President Bush and House leaders urged the Senate to take the bipartisan agreement and pass it quickly. Sen. Max Baucus, the Senate Finance Committee chairman, planned a Wednesday vote in his panel on a $196 billion package that could face a slower path to passage.

"The temptation is going to be for the Senate to load it up," Bush said in the Oval Office. "My concern is that we need to get this bill out of the Senate and on my desk."

Baucus' measure adds $35 billion for senior citizens and the unemployed, and shrinks the rebate to $500 for individuals and $1,000 for couples. It would deliver checks even to the richest taxpayers, who are disqualified under the House-passed measure.

Congressional leaders are aiming to send the package to Bush by Feb. 15. The goal was to start mailing out rebate checks in May and to have most of them to taxpayers by July so that people would spend the money and kick-start a slumping economy. But the divergent plans - and bids by Senate Democrats and some Republicans to enlarge the package with more add-ons - could drag out that schedule.



Advertising Feature

Tiny laptop great for basics, but takes getting used to

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The first time I took Asus's Eee PC laptop on a flight, the security screener assumed it was a portable DVD player.

That's an easy mistake to make. This tiny, two-pound machine is barely bigger or heavier and not much more expensive, at $399 for one I tested and $299 for the cheapest model.

For some time, it has been possible to buy laptops for less than $500. But the ones you see in most stores, such as a $450 Compaq, either weigh too much or can barely run Windows.

The Eee (the Asus site says the name stands for "Easy to Learn, Easy to Work, Easy to Play") is different. It's lighter than any super-cheap laptop and cheaper than any ultralight laptop, and it can do Web work about as well as other computers.

Tech enthusiasts have been raving about this little machine for months. And it is a remarkable piece of work. The Eee is both a successor to such long-ago ultralights as the Tandy Model 100 and far more usable than pricier attempts like the OQO Model 01 or Ultra-Mobile PCs from Samsung and others.

Two parts in particular set this machine apart from most other laptops. (One exception is the One Laptop Per Child project's $200 XO, which is built for kids without computing experience, not adults used to Windows PCs or Macs.)

One is the Eee's flash memory. In place of the usual hard disk drive, which is filled with moving parts, the Eee uses flash memory, like what comes in an iPod Nano or a USB thumb drive. It also has no CD or DVD reader. All that cuts down on storage—the review model had only four gigabytes—but makes the machine lighter and sturdier.

The other is the Eee's efficient, secure software. Windows Vista's bulk would swamp the Eee's limited storage, so Asus chose the free, open-source Linux operating system.

The result is a nifty but sometimes tricky Internet machine usable for basic writing, spreadsheet and presentation work—and which can't get sick from Windows viruses or spyware. If you stick to those activities, you can be happy with the Eee.

WASHINGTON POST

The Asus Eee laptop has a seven-inch screen, big enough for most routine tasks. The two-pound machine is lighter than any super-cheap laptop and cheaper than any ultralight laptop. Illustrates NETWORKINGS (category I), by Rob Pegoraro © 2008, The Washington Post. Moved Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008.

But you will need to adapt. If you're not ready to do that, you should not rush out to buy one of these things. You'd do better to see what Asus can do on a second try—or what another vendor might accomplish with some of the same components.

The Eee's diminutive screen and keyboard may be major obstacles. The seven-inch LCD doesn't leave enough room to view many Web pages without scrolling, and the keyboard is a bit over eight inches wide. You can touch type on an Eee, but the narrow period, slash and right-hand shift keys may make that a struggle.

Otherwise, the Eee provides the same functions as most other laptops. It connects to wired or wireless networks but leaves out a dial-up modem. It also packs in an SD Card slot for extra memory, three USB ports for printers and other add-ons, and a Webcam above the screen to take pictures and video. (The cheapest Eee models omit the Webcam and have only two GB of storage, while the most expensive, $499 unit doubles the standard capacity, to eight GB.)

The unit I tested had a battery that lasted for 3 hours 42 minutes while playing a loop of digital music and regularly reloading a Web page. Its cooling fan was generally off, but after extended Web browsing it would groan to life.

It may take more time to adjust to the Eee's quirky software. Although its core programs—the Mozilla Firefox Web browser, the Mozilla Thunderbird e-mail client, the OpenOffice productivity suite—should be familiar to many Windows users, the version of Linux underneath them won't be.

There are simple, elegant editions of Linux out there, such as the Ubuntu version that Dell sells on some desktops and laptops. But Asus didn't pick one of those. Instead, it wrote its own interface for Linux.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Repair or replace computer?

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2007 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Holiday ads for computers are out, and many people will take this opportunity to buy a new machine instead of fixing or repairing problems with an old one.

Before you decide whether to replace or repair your ailing computer, consider:

If your current machine is getting balky because you're running out of hard drive space, get an external hard drive to hold the overflow.

If you buy new peripherals (scanner, printer) to beef up your system, make sure your old computer will run them.

How much time do you have to tinker with a repair problem, if you do it yourself, and what is your skill level? If it's crucial that your children have a computer for their homework at night, will you have the computer in pieces for a week while you try to sort out the problem.

If you make a lot of changes to a computer running the Windows XP operating system, with its ability to keep track of everything in your machine, you might end up having to call Microsoft to get "permission" to install.

Depending on the problem, a repair in a shop might run you as much as the cost of a new computer. Will something else get broken along the way while the computer is in the shop? Granted, most reliable repair places will give you some type of warranty, but generally that's only for the work they did. A new problem is a new problem.

If you've already put significant money into computer repair, are you throwing good money after bad if it needs even more work? Diagnostics alone can cost half the price of a new low-end computer.

A word of warning: If your computer has been hit with a virus that you just can't get rid of, and you're considering buying a new computer to get rid of the problem, don't. (Some people actually do this.) If you don't know how you got the virus in the first place, it won't be long before your new one gets it, too. Instead, if the computer is otherwise a good one, invest in a repair service to reformat the hard drive and spend some time learning how to avoid being attacked by a virus.

PTI: Looking great in 2008

Already a month into 2008 and PTI continues to build upon the progress that the powerhouse communications company made last year, thanks to the leadership from its Susupe headquarters and the hardest working staff in the Marianas.

The CNMI's largest and most dependable network remains on the cutting edge with more of the top quality cellular, DSL broadband, long distance, business and landline products at competitive prices.

Cellular

The biggest news to come from PTI headquarters last year was the successful launch of Saipan's most complete GSM network in July 2007, and recently the PTI Mobile Wave made its debut.

Now PTI customers have the ability to use their postpaid phones for more than making calls and sending text messages. With PTI Mobile Wave, you can surf the web, check e-mails, get movie times, sport scores, download free ringtones, wallpaper and read local and international headlines on your handsets from anywhere in the CNMI.

The CNMI's cellular leader still offers more than a dozen cutting edge quad-band GSM phone that are ready for use across the globe by simply swapping out a SIM card when they travel outside of the CNMI or PTI GSM postpaid customers can roam with GTA, Globe and Smart.

Of course, PTI's CDMA network is still the finest around with the most benefits available to its subscribers through its voice, text, and data and PTI offers free incoming calls to all 287 and 285 users from other PTI post-paid subscribers.

There's also the 10/20 plan for PTI's pre-paid subscribers. The cost of PTI-to-PTI incoming cellular calls is now just 10-cents per minute, proving once again that it pays to be in the network.

Business

PTI continues to offer a parade of innovation on the business side of its product and service line in the form of Voice Over IP telephony solutions. PTI Business Sales Manager John Mantanona explained that the product allows companies greater flexibility by "controlling communication costs between their offices that are in different geographic regions with this IP-based telephony solution."

Telephony technology was previously available, but the ShoreTel systems are renowned for their reliability, best-in-class management, unmatched productivity, ease of use, phenomenal clarity, and simple expansion capability. As a vendor for both ShoreTel and Nortel products, PTI is able to provide communications solutions that will best fit any business needs.

In addition to private phone systems, PTI provides digital centranet, analog business phone lines, and long distance service with a certified trained sales team that can assist by addressing the unique business needs of its customers.

Mantanona's office also offers the fastest traditional and wireless broadband and cellular services, as well as both voice and data circuit solutions to keep businesses well connected.

PTI also bolstered its investment in the CNMI by purchasing Yellow Pages Inc. In doing so, PTI now provides the most comprehensive phonebook to the CNMI and Guam. Now telephone numbers are just a point and click away online at cnmiphonebook.com or on your cellular phone using PTI Mobile Wave.

Long Distance

PTI remains the choice for quality service and the clearest connections with free service throughout the CNMI, and it's easier than ever to reach out to friends and family around the world.

Whether you're in San Antonio, Saipan or San Antonio, Texas, PTI Long Distance cards are now available for your communication needs online at www.pticom.com. While the Internet is a great tool for folks across the globe, local customers can still find PTI Long Distance cards at over 400 locations throughout the Marianas.

Recently, PTI's pre-paid cellular subscribers became the beneficiaries of the company's latest efforts to reward its customers by waiving access fees when using PTI Long Distance cards.

Now the minutes on your PTI Long Distance cards are deducted only when your overseas call is placed from a PTI pre-paid phone, as opposed to the old system when subscribers were charged for both.

Pricing has always been at the forefront of the company, and PTI offers competitive access to U.S. and worldwide destinations. While affordability remains a high priority, the company continues to pride itself on providing an unparalleled level of quality for your connection to the world.

DSL Broadband

For customers looking to shift into the fast lane on the information superhighway, PTI-DSL Broadband offers five high-speed avenues of superior quality starting as low as $39.95 per month.

With unmatched speed, connectivity, ease of use, reliability, security, and a self-powered network PTI-DSL allows its customers to advantage of the unused bandwidth that already exists on their existing phone line.

PTI-DSL's high-speed connection allows customers to surf the Internet, send documents and large photos with ease, as well as challenge gamers from around the world to online competitions.

As an added benefit, customers can sign up for Lite, Nitro, Supercharge, Turbocharge, or the all new Business versions of PTI-DSL and enjoy a fast, permanent connection to the Internet, while still having the full use of their telephone.

Postpaid Cellular
All incoming 287/285 to 287/285 cellular calls are FREE
Prepaid Cellular
10¢ INCOMING FROM ALL PTI CELLULAR USERS
20¢ FLAT RATE PER MINUTE, ANY CARD, ALL THE TIME!
FREE Airtime when using PTI Long Distance Card
FREE Voicemail
FREE Picture Sending
PTI MOBILE WAVE
CNMI Phone Book www.cnmiphonebook.com WITH FREE AUTO DIAL
CDMA & GSM Network... Your Choice
Join the CNMI's #1 Network
* Some conditions apply
PTI Your connection to the world
Customer Care: 682-4PTI
www.pticom.com
wap.pticom.com
QUALITY CONNECTIONS
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
TRUSTED NETWORK

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I know that analog TV is going off the air next February and that I can keep using my old analog set with a digital converter box, but I can't find any at a reasonable price. So what good is a $40 coupon from the government for the purchase of a converter?

A: This part of the digital TV transition is a bit of a mess. Digital-TV reception over the air does work, and converter boxes that add digital tuners (but not high-definition capability) to old sets do exist. But they have yet to make their way into stores at the promised $50 price.

The Web site set up by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration to help buyers of these boxes (dtv2009.gov) makes this all too clear. Click on its link to "Locate a TV Converter Box Retailer near you," and it tells you that "Retailer information will be posted, as it becomes available."

You'll have to wait, but you should wait anyway, since you won't need a converter box until analog goes off the air Feb. 17, 2009. By this spring, you should see these boxes arrive from such brands as Echostar, Philips, RCA and Zenith and at list prices as low as $40.

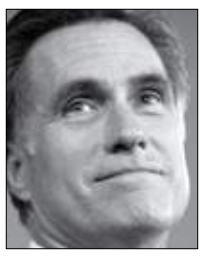
Since the government is offering American households two $40 coupons for the purchase of a digital TV converter—available through that DTV2009 Web site or by calling 888-388-2009—your digital upgrade can therefore be free. Coupons will be sent out starting the second half of February.

Nation

McCain beats Romney to win Fla. primary

MIAMI (AP)—Sen. John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida primary Tuesday night, seizing the upper hand in the Republican presidential race ahead of next week's coast-to-coast contests and lining up a quick endorsement from soon-to-be drop-out Rudy Giuliani.

McCain


Romney

"It shows one thing: I'm the conservative leader who can unite the party," McCain told The Associated Press after easing past former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for his first-ever triumph in a primary open only to Republicans.

"We have a ways to go, but we're getting close" to the nomination, he said later in an appearance before cheering supporters.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton was the Democratic winner in a primary held in defiance of national rules that drew no campaigning and awarded no delegates.

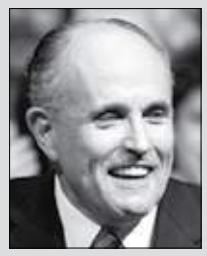
The victory was worth 57 Republican National Convention delegates for McCain, a winner-take-all haul that catapulted him ahead of Romney in that category.

Romney, who has spent millions of dollars of his personal fortune to run for the White House, vowed to stay in the race.

"At a time like this, America needs a president in the White House who has actually had a job in the real economy," the former businessman told supporters in St. Petersburg.

Giuliani prepares to exit, back McCain

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Rudy Giuliani, who bet his presidential hopes on Florida only to come in third, prepared to quit the race Tuesday and endorse his friendliest rival, John McCain.


Giuliani

The former New York mayor stopped short of announcing he was stepping down, but delivered a valedictory speech that was more farewell than fight-on.

Giuliani finished a distant third to winner John McCain and close second-place finisher Mitt Romney. Republican officials said Giuliani would endorse McCain on Wednesday in California. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of the public announcement.

"I'm proud that we chose to stay positive and to run a campaign of ideas in an era of personal attacks, negative ads and cynical spin," he said as supporters with tight smiles crowded behind him.

"You don't always win, but you can always try to do it right, and you did."

AF General: Spy satellite could hit US

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military is developing contingency plans to deal with the possibility that a large spy satellite expected to fall to Earth in late February or early March could hit North America.

Air Force Gen. Gene Renuart, who heads of U.S. Northern Command, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the size of the satellite suggests that some number of pieces will not burn up as the orbiting vehicle re-enters the Earth's atmosphere and will hit the ground.

"We're aware that this satellite is out there," Renuart said. "We're aware it is a fairly substantial size. And we know there is at least some percentage that it could land on ground as opposed to in the water."

A U.S. official confirmed that the spy satellite is designated by the military as US 193. It was launched in December 2006 but almost immediately lost power and cannot be controlled. It carried a sophisticated and secret imaging sensor but the satellite's central computer failed shortly after launch. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the information is classified as secret.

ACROSS THE NATION

Boy put in dog cage after spiking drinks

WASHINGTON, Pa. (AP) -- A woman in southwestern Pennsylvania locked her 10-year-old grandson in a feces-filled dog crate for about 90 minutes because he told his family he had been spiking their drinks with lamp oil and household cleaner, police said. Rhonda Lehman, 51, also called Washington County's Mental Health/Mental Retardation office and said if someone wouldn't come for the boy, she would bury him alive in the back yard, police said. Lehman has custody of the boy, who told police he was lacing the drinks with the oil and a cleaner named "Bam" because "he was angry because he didn't get to go on a trip" last year, said Washington police Officer James Markley.

School shooter convicted on gun charge

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—A federal jury convicted a 23-year-old man on an obscure weapons charge Tuesday, apparently unaware that 10 years ago he and another boy killed four classmates and a teacher in a schoolyard ambush. Mitchell Johnson faces 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine when he is sentenced in the next 45 days on a count of possessing a firearm while being a drug user. In 1998, Johnson, then 13, and 11-year-old schoolmate Andrew Golden opened fire as students and teachers left Jonesboro Westside Middle School after Golden pulled the fire alarm. The boys killed English teacher Shannon Wright and four students ages 11 and 12. They wounded 10 other people.

Body parts found along Pa. highways

SWIFTWATER, Pa. (AP)—A woman's severed head was found Tuesday in a trash bag along an interstate highway, one of eight bags containing body parts discovered beside expressways in northeastern Pennsylvania, authorities said. The parts are believed to belong to the same victim, and it was unclear whether all the body parts have been found, investigators said. The first bag was found Tuesday morning near the Mount Pocono exit of Interstate 380 by a worker salting the highway, investigators said. More remains were found later Tuesday along I-80. Authorities searched I-80 in four counties, state police Lt. Robert Bartal said. The woman's identity was not immediately known, and an autopsy was scheduled for Wednesday.

Mexico issues warrant for missing Marine

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican officials have issued an arrest warrant for a U.S. Marine suspected of killing a pregnant colleague who had accused him of rape, a U.S. Embassy official said Tuesday. A cousin told reporters last week that Marine Cpl. Cesar Laurean visited family in the area of Guadalajara, Mexico, this month, but left without saying where he was headed. The burned remains of Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach were found with those of her fetus earlier this month in a fire pit in the back yard of Laurean's house in Jacksonville, N.C., and Laurean, is being sought on an indictment charging first-degree murder. Both were stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Asia

Study says Afghanistan could fail as a state

WASHINGTON (AP)—Afghanistan risks sliding into a failed state and becoming the "forgotten war" because of deteriorating international support and a growing violent insurgency, according to an independent study.

The assessment, co-chaired by retired Marine Corps Gen. James Jones and former U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, serves as a warning to the Bush administration at a time military and congressional officials are debating how best to juggle stretched warfighting resources.

The administration wants to re-energize anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where al-Qaida is regenerating. But the U.S. still remains heavily invested in Iraq, and officials are sending strong signals that troop reductions there will slow or stop altogether this summer.

"Afghanistan stands at a crossroads," concludes the study, an advance copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. "The progress achieved after six years of international engagement is under serious threat from resurgent violence, weakening international resolve, mounting regional challenges and a growing lack of confidence on the part of the Afghan people about the future direction of their country."

Missile strike kills dozen in Pakistan

MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan (AP)—Three suspected militants allegedly planning suicide attacks died Wednesday when a bomb detonated early, police said, in the latest violence near the Afghan border where 12 people were killed in a missile attack a day earlier.

On Tuesday, more than 500 students chanting "Death to America" protested Pakistan's support for the U.S.-led fight against terrorism, as the government said that security forces would show "no leniency" in the conflict with Islamic militants.

The three men were killed in a home on the outskirts of Peshawar, capital of the North West Frontier Province, police officer Farid Shah said.

"Initial evidence suggests that they were suicide attackers," Shah said. "They were preparing for an attack but the explosion occurred."

Pakistan—a close U.S. ally in the war against terrorism—has seen a surge in militant-linked, mainly in its tribal regions along the border with Afghanistan, in recent days where security forces have battled with Islamic fighters, leaving scores of people dead.

Nationwide violence tied to militancy has killed 370 people this month, according to an Associated Press tally based on information by military and other officials.

Ex-RP mayor shot dead in court, 2 hurt

MANILA, Philippine (AP)—A gunman disguised as a policeman fatally shot a former mayor outside a courtroom in the Philippine capital on Tuesday, sending panicked employees fleeing the building, officials said.

The attacker escaped after killing Reynaldo Yap, ex-mayor of Sapang Dalaga township in Misamis Occidental province, as he was waiting in a corridor for a hearing in a murder case against him, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said.

One of Yap's bodyguards and a female bystander were wounded, Lim said.

People near the courtroom fled in panic when they heard the shots. Police officers interviewed on radio said they could not immediately respond at the scene because they were unarmed, having deposited their weapons with court officers as part of a security procedure.

AP

Trees are covered with snow at a park Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008 in Shanghai, China.

Winter storm chaos grips China

GUANGZHOU, China (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers desperate to get home for the Chinese New Year shivered in the cold under a sea of umbrellas outside train stations Tuesday, as the worst winter storms in half a century paralyzed China.

One of the world's biggest annual mass movements of humanity—a record 178.6 million people, more than the population of Russia—were expected to travel by train for the holiday, according to railway officials' estimates.

Most of those stranded at train stations were migrant workers trying to leave booming southern Guangdong province - often called the world's factory floor because it makes everything from Honda sedans to Apple iPods and Nike sneakers.

In China, the New Year holiday, which begins Feb. 7, is as important as Christmas is in the West. For most migrant workers, it's the only time of the year when they can visit their hometowns, and they often take a month off to feast with their families and perform a series of rituals.

World

Commanders see long operation in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—The top U.S. commanders in northern Iraq predicted Tuesday the battle to oust al-Qaida in Iraq from its last urban stronghold will not be a swift strike, but rather a grinding campaign for Mosul that will require more firepower from both the Pentagon and Iraqi allies.

The statements appeared to discount suggestions by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that Iraqi forces were gathering for a "decisive" attack as soon as all reinforcements are in place.

"It is not going to be this climactic battle ... It's going to be probably a slow process," said Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq.

In a telephone interview from his headquarters in Tikrit, Hertling described the strategy for Mosul - Iraq's third-largest city - as the same step-by-step tactics used in the U.S.-led troop offensives in Baghdad: win control of a district and keep troops there to hold it.

Hertling said he was moving a considerable force of "enablers" into the Nineveh province and Mosul, its capital. He would not disclose numbers, but said the move on Mosul had long been planned.

But attention on Mosul has sharply increased in the past weeks with a rise in insurgent violence, including a bomb cache that tore through a poor Sunni neighborhood, killing about 60 people and wounding more than 200 last week. Then on Monday, U.S. forces were caught in a bomb-and-bullets ambush that killed five U.S. soldiers.

Al-Maliki has promised to send a wave of Iraq police and soldiers into the Mosul area to crush al-Qaida and its backers.

The offensive raised the possibility that Iraqi forces were moving toward a critical test by leading the difficult urban offensive in a city of 2 million people. Hertling's comments, however, suggested a heightened level of U.S. involvement and oversight.

Lt. Col. Michael Simmering, of the 3rd Armored Cavalry at Forward Operating Base Marez near Mosul, also described the insurgent force in the city as a patchwork of groups, including al-Qaida in Iraq and other factions, "all vying for different things at this point."

No quick fix for Kenyan crisis

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya, once a leader in the region, is following neighbors like Somalia down a path of disintegration, with no solution in sight as burning slums and thousands fleeing in fear alter the nation's ethnic map - perhaps forever.

Police in helicopters on Tuesday fired to turn back mobs. Gunmen killed opposition legislator Mugabe Were, and slums where a tense peace had held for days exploded with machete-wielding gangs setting fire to homes and businesses owned by President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu people.

Sabat Abdullah, a slum resident, said a gang dragged a Kikuyu doctor from his clinic "and then cut and cut until his head was off."

The international community is pressuring Kibaki and his chief rival Raila Odinga - who is a member of the Luo tribe - to share power to end the crisis over the disputed presidential election.

Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is negotiating, but says it will take a year just to settle on a plan for resolving the deep-rooted problems that caused anger over the election to turn to murderous hate between neighbors of decades.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called the violence "deeply concerning," saying, "We are currently asking everyone to maintain calm."

Poor Haitians resort to eating dirt

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—It was lunchtime in one of Haiti's worst slums, and Charlene Dumas was eating mud. With food prices rising, Haiti's poorest can't afford even a daily plate of rice, and some take desperate measures to fill their bellies. Charlene, 16 with a 1-month-old son, has come to rely on a traditional Haitian remedy for hunger pangs: cookies made of dried yellow dirt from the country's central plateau.

The mud has long been prized by pregnant women and children here as an antacid and source of calcium. But in places like Cite Soleil, the oceanside slum where Charlene shares a two-room house with her baby, five siblings and two unemployed parents, cookies made of dirt, salt and vegetable shortening have become a regular meal.

"When my mother does not cook anything, I have to eat them three times a day," Charlene said. Her baby, named Woodson, lay still across her lap, looking even thinner than the slim 6 pounds 3 ounces he weighed at birth.

Though she likes their buttery, salty taste, Charlene said the cookies also give her stomach pains. "When I nurse, the baby sometimes seems colicky too," she said.

Food prices around the world have spiked because of higher oil prices, needed for fertilizer, irrigation and transportation. Prices for basic ingredients such as corn and wheat are also up sharply, and the increasing global demand for biofuels is pressuring food markets as well.

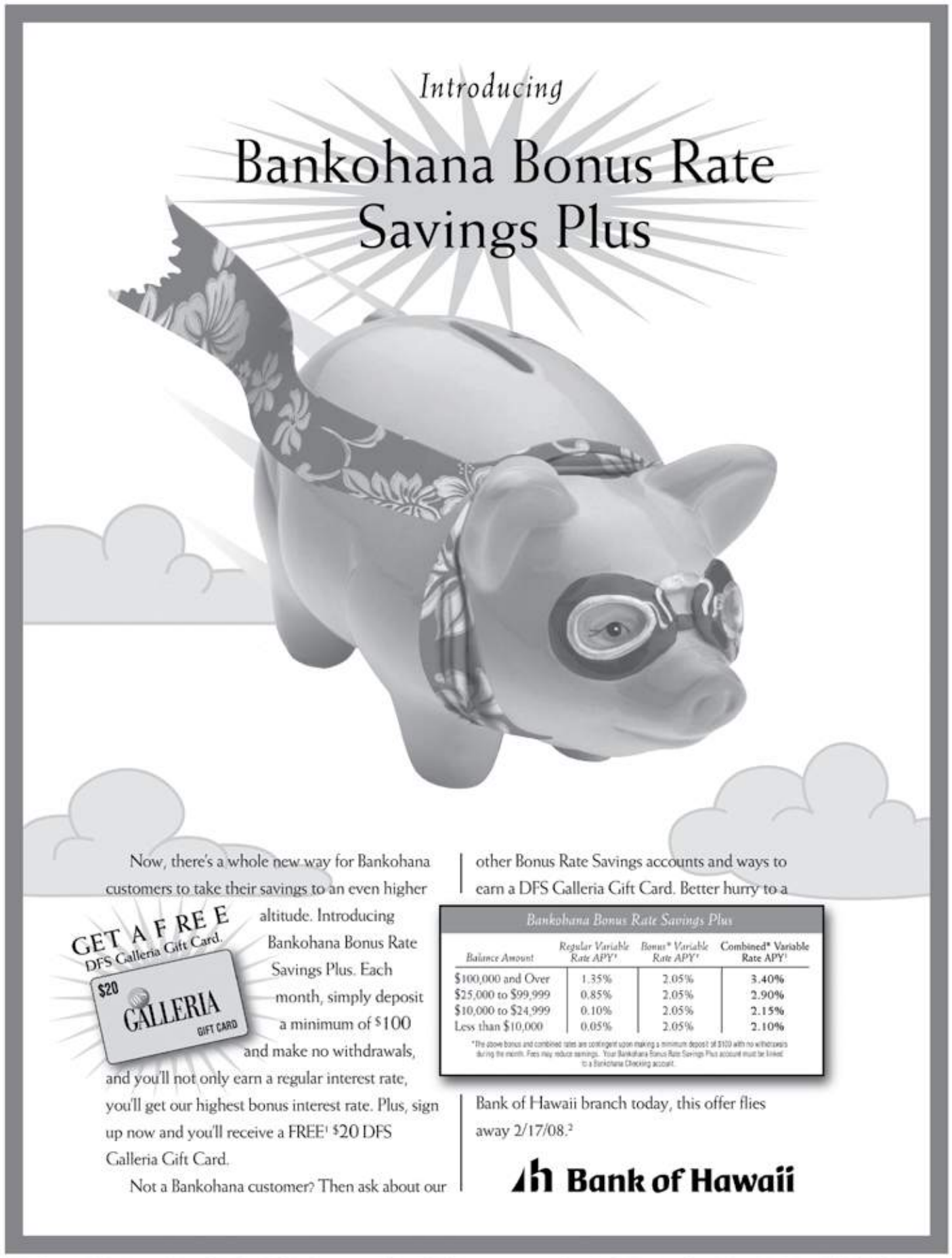
WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuela gunmen captured after standoff

ALTAGRACIA DE ORITUCO, Venezuela (AP)—Gunmen who held dozens of hostages inside a Venezuelan bank for more than a day fled in an ambulance but were caught Tuesday along a roadside, where they surrendered and freed their last five captives. One of the robbers shot himself in the leg when his gun went off during the chase, but none of the hostages were seriously hurt, said Justice Minister Ramon Rodriguez Chacin, calling it a "100 percent" success. The gunmen first let three hostages go after police caught their vehicle, and then negotiated while holding on to the last two, Guarico state Gov. Eduardo Manuitt said. They eventually turned over their guns and a grenade, and then were ordered to the ground as police arrested them, Manuitt said. The pursuit ended less than two hours after the gunmen fled the bank under a deal negotiated with police.

Austria examines evidence on Nazi guard

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Austrian prosecutors are examining new allegations against a female Nazi concentration camp guard who evaded prosecution decades ago for lack of evidence, officials said Tuesday. The new material alleges that Erna Wallisch fatally beat a man at the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland, said Gerhard Jarosch, a spokesman for the Vienna public prosecutor's office. The prosecutor's office did not say whether it plans to pursue charges against Wallisch, 85, who lives in Vienna, based on the new evidence from the Polish Institute of National Remembrance. "We are now checking to see if it was really her," Jarosch said.


Introducing
Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus
GET A FREE DFS Galleria Gift Card.
$20 GALLERIA GIFT CARD
Now, there's a whole new way for Bankohana customers to take their savings to an even higher altitude. Introducing Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus. Each month, simply deposit a minimum of $100 and make no withdrawals, and you'll not only earn a regular interest rate, you'll get our highest bonus interest rate. Plus, sign up now and you'll receive a FREE[1] $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card.
Not a Bankohana customer? Then ask about our other Bonus Rate Savings accounts and ways to earn a DFS Galleria Gift Card. Better hurry to a Bank of Hawaii branch today, this offer flies away 2/17/08.[2]
Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus
Balance Amount | Regular Variable Rate APY* | Bonus* Variable Rate APY* | Combined* Variable Rate APY*
$100,000 and Over | 1.35% | 2.05% | 3.40%
$25,000 to $99,999 | 0.85% | 2.05% | 2.90%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 2.05% | 2.15%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 2.05% | 2.10%
*The above bonus and combined rates are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to a Bankohana Checking account.
Bank of Hawaii
[1] $5,000 minimum opening deposit and balance required for new Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus accounts opened by February 17, 2008. Funds to open account may not be from an existing Bank of Hawaii account. Some restrictions apply. You will receive a $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card upon account opening. Limit one $20 DFS Galleria Gift Card per account regardless of the number of accountholders. Limit one per customer. Not available for existing accounts. Good while supplies last. [2] Current Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 1/25/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply.
boh.com ©2007 Bank of Hawaii Member FDIC

Environment

Youth urged to take action to save reefs

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and partners have launched competitions for primary and secondary school students throughout the Pacific region to mark the beginning of activities to celebrate the 2008 Pacific Year of the Reef.

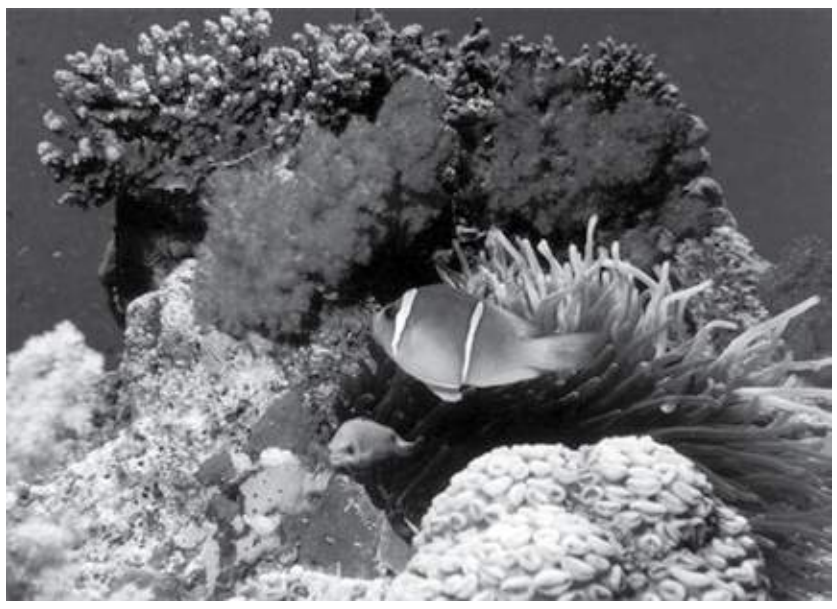
In announcing the commencement of competitions, SPREP's Coral Reef Management Officer, Caroline Vieux, stressed the need for urgent, concerted action to effectively protect Pacific reefs.

"Both competitions are designed to encourage people to connect and cooperate with others for reef conservation and protection," Vieux explained.

"Primary school students will need to talk with community elders for their entries in the 'Legends of the Reef' competition and older students would benefit from partnerships with Government agencies and non-Government organisations in the 'challengecoralreef' competition," she elaborated.

"Legends of the Reefs" is a primary school competition that aims to capture stories that demonstrate the importance of reefs to Pacific island life. Entrants are required to write a composition of a legend or story about a reef in their area and draw a poster depicting the story. Entries for this competition should reach SPREP by 30 March 2008 and will be displayed at all SPREP meetings and events.

The three-phased "challengecoralreef" competition requires groups of secondary school students to develop Action Plans of activities to protect a reef in their area by Feb. 25, 2008. School groups with the five best Actions Plans will progress to the later phases of the competition during which funding will be provided to implement key components of their Plans. The overall champion will be invited to present their work at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Florida, USA.



The year 2008 has been declared as the Pacific Year of the Reef.

Guidelines and a workbook can be obtained by entrants from the Pacific Year of the Reef page of the SPREP website at www.sprep.org/pyor. Digital submission of entries is encouraged and all participants in both competitions will receive participation packs. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of the 'Legends of the Reef' competition and all groups that reach the second phase of the "challengecoralreef" competition. These have been made possible by the Coral Reef Initiatives for the Pacific project, the International Coral Reef Action Network, and the United Nations Foundation.

Both competitions were developed to promote the need for action and embody the Pacific Year of the Reef campaign slogan of "strong reefs, strong islands" which articulates the pivotal role healthy reefs play in protecting our islands and sustaining our cultures and livelihoods.

The commencement of competitions coincides with the launch of the 2008 International Year of the Reef campaign by the International Coral Reef Initiative at a meeting and symposium in Washington DC. Vieux will present an outline of scheduled activities of the Pacific campaign at the launch.

Other regional activities that will be part of the Pacific Year of the Reef celebrations include artistic events, the establishment of the Coral Reef Fund, development of a behaviour change workshop kit, and hosting of a Coral Reef Forum in September.

These will complement other regional reef-related activities of SPREP and partner organisations. These include a coastal governance project in Vanuatu, an economic valuation of reef ecosystems in the northern Pacific; promotion of community-based protected area management projects; identification of reef conservation priorities; development of alternative livelihood assessment tools; development of a coral reef atlas of the Pacific; and development of a post-larvae capture and culture project in Fiji.

For more information, contact SPREP's Pacific Year of the Reef Campaign Coordinator Sereima Savu. E-mail: sereimas@sprep.org; Telephone: (685) 21929; Fax: (685) 20321; Website: www.sprep.org. ***(PR)***

US corn boom has downside for the Gulf

JEFFERSON, Iowa (AP)—Because of rising demand for ethanol, American farmers are growing more corn than at any time since World War II. And sea life in the Gulf of Mexico is paying the price.

The nation's corn crop is fertilized with millions of pounds of nitrogen-based fertilizer. And when that nitrogen runs off fields in Corn Belt states, it makes its way to the Mississippi River and eventually pours into the Gulf, where it contributes to a growing "dead zone"—a 7,900-square-mile patch so depleted of oxygen that fish, crabs and shrimp suffocate.

The dead zone was discovered in 1985 and has grown fairly steadily since then, forcing fishermen to venture farther and farther out to sea to find their catch. For decades, fertilizer has been considered the prime cause of the lifeless spot.

With demand for corn booming, some researchers fear the dead zone will expand rapidly, with devastating consequences.

"We might be coming close to a tipping point," said Matt Rota, director of the water resources program for the New Orleans-based Gulf Restoration Network, an environmental group. "The ecosystem might change or collapse as opposed to being just impacted."

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

†Cpl. Lee Roy Apatang Camacho

invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our dear beloved son.

Daily Mass will be offered at Santa Soledad Church
of the following dates

Friday	**February 01**	**6:00PM**
Saturday	**February 02**	**6:00PM**
Sunday	**February 03**	**7:00AM**
Monday	**February 04**	**6:00PM**
Tuesday	**February 05**	**6:00PM**
Wednesday	**February 06**	**6:00PM**
Thursday	**February 07**	**6:00PM**
Friday	**February 08**	**6:00PM**

On the final day, Saturday, February 09, 2008, Mass will be said at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at Mr. /Mrs. Jose R. and Maria A. Camacho residence in Kagman III.

Thank you and Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From
Mr. and Mrs. Jose R. and Maria A. Camacho
and siblings
Lee Roy Jr. Camacho, Layton Camacho, Levin Joe Camacho

Life & Style

Witness: Smith son unhappy in her shadow

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) -- The late son of reality TV star Anna Nicole Smith was a gifted but anguished 20-year-old who longed to be more independent of his celebrity mother, a family friend testified Tuesday at an inquest into his death.

Ford Shelley, the son-in-law of a developer who was embroiled in an ownership dispute over the estate where Anna Nicole lived in the Bahamas before her fatal Feb. 8 overdose, described Daniel Smith as a "brilliant" young man who was "living in a shell" due to his mother's fame.

"He wanted to break free," Shelley said. "He loved his mother but didn't want to be known as her son."

Daniel Smith died Sept. 10, 2006, while visiting his mother three days after she gave birth to her daughter, Dannielynn, in the Bahamian capital of Nassau.

Shelley, who testified that Anna Nicole kept her drugs in a duffel bag, said he saw prescription bottles - including the painkiller methadone in pill and liquid form - made out to at least four different aliases when he unpacked her luggage during a trip she made to South Carolina to visit developer G. Ben Thompson, a former boyfriend.

He testified that he believed Daniel Smith could not have been a drug addict because he was "afraid of his own shadow" and "couldn't even hold his liquor."

Cross-examination by a lawyer for Anna Nicole's attorney-turned-boyfriend Howard K. Stern, who was also in the hospital room the day Daniel died, tried to cast doubt on the closeness of Shelley's relationship with the Smith family.

Earlier in the day, the lab director for the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office testified that a large dose of methadone taken by Daniel Smith was the primary factor behind his death.

"But for the methadone he would not have died," said Dr. Lee Hern, who added that he did not believe the young man was a habitual user of the drug.

Under questioning by Director of Public Prosecutions Bernard Turner, Hern said he felt the 20-year-old's death was the result of an "intentional" overdose because the methadone ingested was such a large amount taken in such a short period of time.

The coroner's court session was attended by Stern and Anna Nicole's long-estranged mother, Virgie Arthur.

The inquest continues Wednesday, with testimony expected by Thompson, the South Carolina developer, and two nannies who worked in the waterfront home where Anna Nicole Smith and Stern lived in Nassau.

Snipes trial offers IRS perfect script

OCALA, Fla. (AP) -- Even Hollywood couldn't have written a more ideal script for the Internal Revenue Service than actor Wesley Snipes' tax-fraud trial.

At a time when millions of Americans are buckling down to prepare their taxes, Snipes is being cast as a villainous example of the dangers of joining with Internet-fueled activists who claim the IRS has no authority to collect taxes.

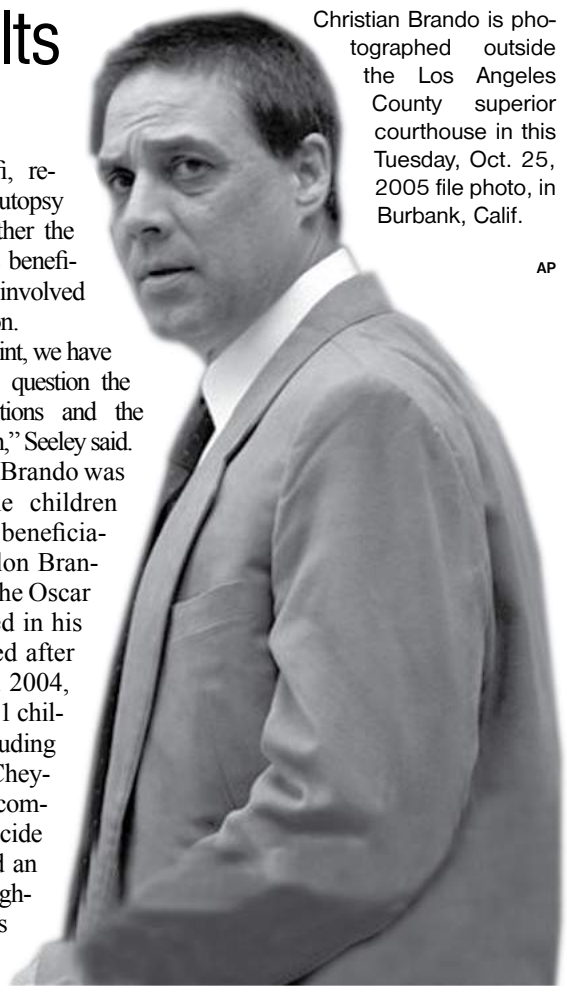
Snipes, the star of the "Blade" films and "White Men Can't Jump," is on trial with two tax protesters in one of the biggest criminal cases in IRS history, and the agency hopes the media attention on the matter will dissuade others in the "tax avoidance" movement from trying to outwit the government.

"People who do it openly and notoriously, you've got to go after them," said Sheldon Cohen, who was IRS commissioner and general counsel in the 1960s. "Not because he's that important or the amount of money is that important, but because there are others who may be foolish enough to follow."

Snipes, 45, could get up to 16 years in prison if convicted on all counts, although sentences that long are unusual.

His two co-defendants are an anti-tax ideologue who refuses to defend himself in court and an accountant who lost his licenses. The trio rested their defense Monday without calling any witnesses, saying they didn't need to.

No immediate results in Brando autopsy



Christian Brando is photographed outside the Los Angeles County superior courthouse in this Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2005 file photo, in Burbank, Calif.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- An autopsy on the body of Christian Brando did not immediately determine what killed the son of the late actor Marlon Brando, authorities said Tuesday.

Christian Brando died Saturday at a Los Angeles hospital. The cause of death was listed as deferred, pending results of toxicology tests that may determine whether Brando had prescription or other drugs in his system and whether a medical condition was involved, Los Angeles County coroner's official Ed Winter said.

Results should be available in six to eight weeks.

The autopsy was requested "based on his past drug history," Los Angeles County coroner's Lt. Fred Corral said Monday.

An attorney for Marlon Brando's estate said the 49-year-old died of pneumonia.

Lawyer David J. Seeley said that Christian Brando's mother, Anna Kashfi, requested the autopsy and that neither the estate nor its beneficiaries were involved in the decision.

"At this point, we have no reason to question the hospital's actions and the cause of death," Seeley said.

Christian Brando was one of nine children named as beneficiaries of Marlon Brando's trust. The Oscar winner noted in his will, released after his death in 2004, that he had 11 children, including daughter Cheyenne, who committed suicide in 1995, and an adopted daughter who was not a beneficiary.

Sean Young to rehab after DGA outburst

AP

Sean Young arrives for the Directors Guild of America Awards in this Jan. 26, 2008, file photo in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Sean Young has entered rehabilitation for alcohol abuse following a weekend outburst in which she was heckling from the audience at the Directors Guild of America awards.

The 48-year-old actress was escorted from the ballroom at the Hyatt Regency in Century City Saturday night after sparring with Julian Schnabel, who was nominated for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

"Actress Sean Young voluntarily admitted herself yesterday to a rehabilitation center for treatment related to alcoholism," a statement from Insignia PR said Tuesday. "It is understood that Young has struggled against the disease for many years."

At the DGAs, all of the film nominees get a chance to say a few words before the top prize is announced. Schnabel, in his trademark yellow-tinted glasses, seemed moved by the occasion and was a bit slow to start, looking down at the podium and running his hands through his wild, curly hair.

That's when Young could be heard throughout the room urging him to get on with it. Apparently rattled, Schnabel scanned the room and asked who said that, then spotted Young and suggested that she "have another cocktail."

Then he suggested that she should finish his speech for him and started walking off the stage. Music began playing for his exit, but the audience urged him to stay and keep speaking, and he did. Young, meanwhile, was removed from the ballroom.

The guild said in a statement Tuesday: "The DGA wishes to respect Ms. Young's privacy at this difficult time and declines further comment."

Joel and Ethan Coen were the winners for "No Country for Old Men."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$4.75 Bargain Matinees-All Shows Before 6PM
$4.00 All Day Admission For Seniors & Kids
$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.00 Military with valid ID

THRIFTY TUESDAYS $4.75 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday January 25 through Thursday January 31 only!

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Meet the Spartans

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13 ●

Synopsis

From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. Sure Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa.

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo

Friday		4:30	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:05	

Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR ■

Synopsis

Angie (Judy Ann Santos) and Jed (Ryan Agoncillo) are first-time parents who experience the joys and pains of raising a child. They realize that parenthood is extremely demanding that they learn to sacrifice their own interests for their baby. One day, Jed has to go abroad for a business convention. Angie decides to go along, leaving their child with their friends. This is when their mothers (Gloria Diaz and Gina Pareño) come in and take turns taking care of their child, which led to a total disaster.

★ ★ ★

Cloverfield

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ■

27 Dresses

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13 ●

The Bucket List

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ▙

Mad Money

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13 ▙

One Missed Call

Friday		@	7:25	9:40
Saturday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Sunday	@	@		
Mon thru Thurs		@		

Edward Burns, Shannyn Sossamon
Horror, Remake • Rated PG13 ▙

Alvin & The Chipmunks

Friday		4:05	@	@
Saturday	1:05	4:05	@	@
Sunday	1:05	4:05	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	@	

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson
Comedy, Family • Rated PG ▙

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Israel: No apology for Beatles snub

LONDON (AP)—More than 40 years after it barred the iconic British band from playing there, Israel said it wants the surviving members of the Beatles to participate in a concert celebrating the country's 60th birthday.

But the Israeli embassy in London denied a report that the Jewish state had apologized for its original refusal to let the Beatles perform in the country. The band had been booked to appear in 1965, but the government refused to grant the necessary permits on the ground that its music might corrupt the country's morals.

"Israel missed a chance to learn from the most influential musicians of the decade, and the Beatles missed an opportunity to reach out to one of the most passionate audiences in the world," Israeli ambassador Ron Prosor said in a letter addressed to Sir Paul McCartney. "On our 60th anniversary, we would like to take the opportunity to offer you a second chance to play in Israel."

The embassy said a letter was presented by Prosor to Jerry Goldman, CEO of the Beatles Story in the north England city of Liverpool. It was also sent to Sir Paul McCartney and Richard Starkey, better known as Ringo Starr.

The Beatles, clockwise from top left, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, John Lennon, and George Harrison are shown on an album cover in 1965. AP

Margaret Truman dies at age 83

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Margaret Truman, the only child of former President Harry S. Truman and a concert singer, actress, radio and TV personality, and mystery writer, died Tuesday. She was 83.

Truman, known as Margaret Truman Daniel in private life, died at a Chicago assisted living center after a brief illness, according to Susan Medler, a spokeswoman for the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence. She had been at the center for the past several weeks and was on a respirator, the library said.

Her father's succession to the presidency in 1945 thrust her into the national spotlight while a college junior.

"I feel that I've lived several different lives, and that was one of them," she said in 1980. "Some of it was fun, but most of it was not. It was a great view of history being made.

"The only thing I ever missed about the White House was having a car and driver," she once said.

Her singing career attracted the barbs of music critics - even the embarrassment of having her father threaten one reviewer. But she found a fulfilling professional and personal life in New York City, where she met her husband, journalist Clifton Daniel, who later became managing editor of The New York Times. They married in 1956.

She published her first book, an autobiography titled "Souvenir," in 1956. She said it was "hard work" and told reporters: "One writing job is enough."

Talks, progress raise hopes for deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—While negotiators edge toward agreement on the thorniest issues in the 3-month-old writers strike, many in Hollywood are nurturing new hope that an end is near for the walkout that has brought their industry to a standstill.

The Writers Guild of America and studio executives, beginning a second week of renewed talks, have made progress on the key issue of payment for Internet-distributed work, said a person familiar with the talks who was not authorized to publicly comment and requested anonymity. But hard work remains to be done, the person said.

The guild agreed last week to take proposals to unionize animation and reality TV writers—demands that contributed to December's abrupt collapse—off the table. That left new-media compensation as the major hurdle to overcome.

Even without official announcements coming from the closed-door talks, a strike-fatigued community showed it was ready to embrace optimism—just not giddily.

"I'm like everyone else. I'm hopeful," writer Devon Shepherd, whose credits include "Weeds" and "Everybody Hates Chris," said Tuesday.

"We're all just hoping that with time passing, cooler heads will prevail and people are seeing the bigger picture. The longer we stay out, it's not only hurting us but hurting the industry," he said.

The tone also was cautiously upbeat at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards, where stars gathered after the writers guild said it would not picket.

"Every single day, everybody is making a projection," said "Big Love" star Jeanne Tripplehorn. "I think we're all more hopeful than in the past."

Jenna Fischer, star of the "The Office," echoed that perspective on the red carpet.

"It feels hopeful for the first time," Fischer said.

Away from the spotlight, however, uncertainty remained over what the guild and studio heads might achieve in the talks that began after a six-week negotiations impasse. The talks are the subject of a media blackout.

The guild's board of directors gathered Tuesday to discuss the status of the talks before meeting again with studio executives.

The primary corporate representatives have been Peter Chernin, chief operating officer of News Corp., and Robert Iger, chief executive of The Walt Disney Co.

Cruise first to get new Ducati superbike

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Tom Cruise is the first on the list to get Ducati's newest motorcycle—a $72,500 superbike bristling with titanium, magnesium and carbon fiber technology that can scoot up to 200 mph.

Cruise is scheduled to take delivery of the Desmosedici RR at Beverly Hills Ducati this week. Only 1,500 of the red-and-white Moto GP racing replica motorcycles will be made and Cruise gets the first.

Michael Lock, chief of Cupertino-based Ducati North America, said the Desmosedici RR "is the impossible dream—made possible."

"We are delighted to be able to deliver the world's first production unit here in the USA to Tom Cruise, who is a well-known Ducati enthusiast," Lock said in a statement.

Tom Cruise arrives at the premiere of "Mad Money" in Los Angeles, in this Jan. 9, 2008, file photo. AP

Clinton booked for Letterman's show

NEW YORK (AP)—Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton will yuk it up on CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman," a day before the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday contests.

Clinton will join Letterman on the set before a studio audience in New York this coming Monday. She was last on the program Jan. 2, in a cameo appearance from Iowa.

It will be the former first lady's ninth visit to the show. She first appeared in 1994 from the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, where she was interviewed by Letterman's mother.

Letterman's show has been a popular destination for the presidential hopefuls. Democrats Barack Obama and John Edwards have both appeared twice since entering the race—Obama as recently as last Thursday, where he read the nightly Top 10 list.

Republican John McCain announced his candidacy on Letterman's show last February. GOP rivals Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee have also appeared on the show as candidates.

Common courtesy conquers the perils of the bike path

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "On Foot in Orlando" (Nov. 23) wrote about being nearly run down by bicycles going too fast, especially when they don't warn that they're approaching. When I'm on my bike, I always slow down and call out "On your left!" to warn the walker that I'm passing.

On the other hand, while I'm riding, I frequently encounter walkers three or four abreast, or pedestrians walking dead center or meandering zigzag down a path. In those cases, I ring my bell, say, "On your left," and slow almost to a complete stop —only to be totally ignored, leaving me with no alternative but to ride on the grass. Sometimes the three-abreast walkers are coming straight at me and clearly see me, but still won't move over and give me enough space to pass them (something that also happens when I'm walking).

The obvious solution is for walkers and riders to be considerate of one another, recognizing that we share a common road through life.

—CELIA IN MISSOULA, MONT.

DEAR CELIA: I agree with you on that. Good manners can smooth many potentially abrasive situations. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Where I live, there are no bike lanes separate from the walking lanes on the shared path. We are allowed to ride bikes on sidewalks, except on Main Street. I only wish bikers here had bicycle bells, but they don't seem to have ever heard of them, nor do they say "coming through" or "on your left"—they just come whizzing by. I'm hoping some of them will read this and take pity on walkers.

—WALKER AND BIKER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR ABBY: I am neither a biker nor a walker on a path. A cyclist ringing his bell signaling me to move would do no good, so I guess I'd be one of those ending up with "great bodily harm," as you put it. You see, I'm hard-of-hearing and could not hear that dinging bell behind me.

What if the person ahead of you is deaf? People can't see deafness as a handicap the way they can if somebody has a cane, etc. And, yes, I do wear hearing aids, in case some of your readers are thinking, "Get a hearing aid." Hearing aids help, but they are not a cure-all. (And many elderly people don't hear well either.)

So, bikers, do not totally rely on your bell to signal people to move. If there are pedestrians where you're riding, I urge you to use caution in case somebody might have a hearing impairment.

—HARD-OF-HEARING IN WEST TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: When bicyclists, roller-bladers, joggers, walkers and tricycle riders all share the same path, the general rule is that the slowest person keeps to the right. This allows the roller-bladers and cyclists to pass without causing alarm. Conflict usually arises when a group of people is walking together, taking up most of the walkway and making it impossible for others to pass, or when someone is wearing headphones and is oblivious to other users.

Unfortunately, when people don't observe basic courtesies on shared pathways, everyone becomes frustrated.

—ANN IN BRANFORD, CONN.

DEAR READERS: That's right. Obviously, the rule should be to use caution on shared pathways, whether you are walking or riding—and instead of taking for granted that you have the right of way, show consideration for others and practice good manners.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

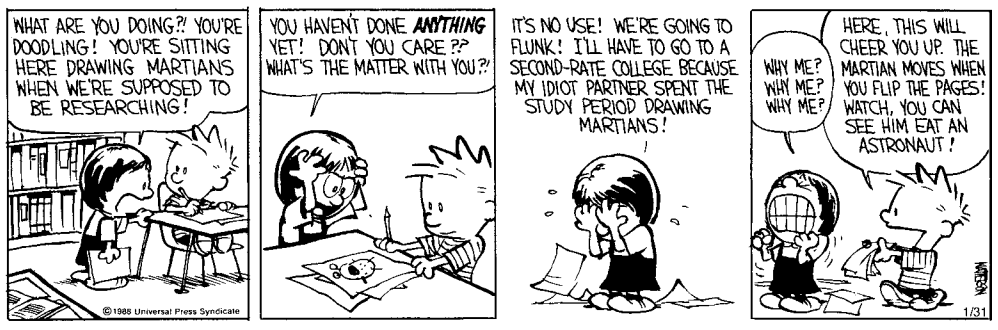
■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU'RE DOODLING! YOU'RE SITTING HERE DRAWING MARTIANS WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RESEARCHING!
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET! DON'T YOU CARE?? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!
IT'S NO USE! WE'RE GOING TO FLUNK! I'LL HAVE TO GO TO A SECOND-RATE COLLEGE BECAUSE MY IDIOT PARTNER SPENT THE STUDY PERIOD DRAWING MARTIANS!
WHY ME? WHY ME? WHY ME?
HERE, THIS WILL CHEER YOU UP. THE MARTIAN MOVES WHEN YOU FLIP THE PAGES! WATCH, YOU CAN SEE HIM EAT AN ASTRONAUT!
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
1/31

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THIS DAY IS GETTING BETTER
...BECAUSE I HAD THE WORST MORNING OF MY LIFE!
YEAH, I USUALLY DON'T GET UP THAT EARLY
© 2008 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

No longer using that exercise ball for exercise? Then play the game that could possibly one day sweep the country -- Exercise Ball Movie Charades!
www.CIOCOMICS.COM
© 2008 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
"SLEEPER"
"SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE"
"WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING"
"THE WIZARD OF OZ"
1/31
*ANSWER: "THE WIZARD OF OZ"
BRIAN BASSET
Z

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I DON'T GET IT. YOU PEOPLE PUT SHOCK COLLARS ON US DOGS.
AND, YET, BRITNEY SPEARS GETS TO RUN AROUND LOOSE.
GLENN MCCOY 1-31
2008 © Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

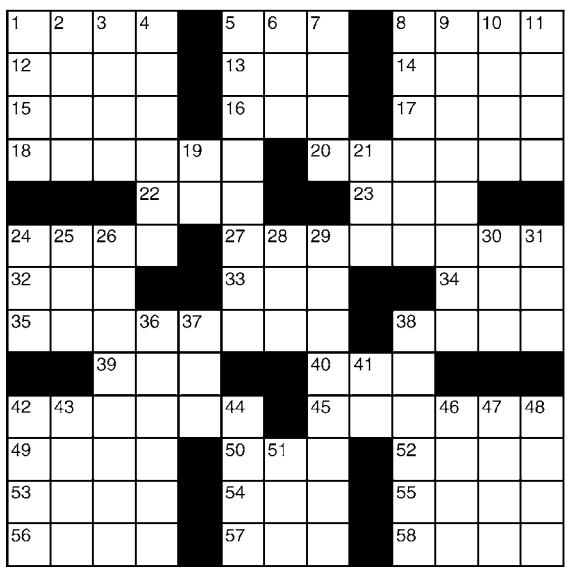
ACROSS
1 Big rig
5 Handle clumsily
8 Lady Macbeth's problem
12 Leading man
13 Blond shade
14 Cilium
15 Iodine source
16 Schuss
17 Gilligan's home
18 Extended family
20 Sponsored child
22 Albanian money
23 Agent, for short
24 One of the Three Bears
27 Nero and Napoleon
32 Carte lead-in
33 Verily
34 50 Cent piece
35 Elicits an "Eeeww!"
38 Sicilian spouter
39 Spanish 40-Across
40 Day glow?
42 Elmore Leonard's "Get —
45 Twists (from)
49 Son of Jacob
50 In olden days
52 Whatever's still there
53 Portent
54 Neither mate
55 Vague
56 Swede of tennis lore
57 Decked in the ring, for short
58 Maneuverable, old-style

DOWN
1 Munro pseudonym
2 12-Across' place
3 Teens' hangout
4 Antelope with slender, curved horns
5 Superintendents' ways in
6 Request
7 Bygone party member
8 Fast pitch
9 Traveler's need
10 Scandinavian city
11 Subsequently
19 Lindbergh book
21 Raw rock
24 Cushion
25 — Baba
26 Liberation commemoration
28 Bumped into
29 "Joe sent me," e.g.
30 Skedaddled
31 Resort
36 Matador's worry
37 Last (Abbr.)
38 Vim
41 Ancient city of Iraq
42 Unkempt one
43 Blood (Pref.)
44 Tug hard
46 Antitoxins
47 Despot
48 Eyelid woe
51 Stickum

Solution time: 25 mins.

O	F	F	S	■	E	L	F	■	L	A	M	P
P	L	O	T	■	N	E	O	■	A	D	A	R
T	O	R	E	A	D	O	R	■	T	O	R	E
S	P	A	W	N	■	■	T	H	I	R	T	Y
■	■	■	E	T	C	H	■	I	N	A	■	■
A	W	E	D	■	L	O	L	L	■	B	E	E
G	E	L	■	H	A	B	I	T	■	L	A	G
O	D	D	■	O	D	O	R	■	B	E	R	G
■	■	O	W	E	■	S	A	K	E	■	■	■
P	A	R	A	D	E	■	■	I	M	P	E	L
A	J	A	X	■	D	O	R	M	O	U	S	E
L	A	D	E	■	G	N	U	■	A	M	P	S
E	R	O	S	■	Y	E	N	■	N	A	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 1-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Timberlake, 27; Portia DeRossi, 35; Minnie Driver, 38; Suzanne Pleshette, 71

Happy Birthday: This could turn out to be an emotional year for you. Don't give in to pressure; take care of your own needs. Research and pick and choose what's important enough to you to merit your effort. You cannot do it all and, once you realize your limitations, you will be far better positioned to accomplish what's necessary. Your numbers are 8, 11, 24, 27, 36, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Taking action to resolve issues will be admired by some and not by others. Be courageous and follow your heart. Getting involved in something you believe in will bring you the information needed to pursue something important. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): This is a perfect time to sign up for a course or surf the Internet for important information. Travel will enhance your views and help you realize your true potential. Children, friends and activities you enjoy will help you make an important personal decision. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): It's in the stars that, if you take action, good things will happen and you will excel in ways you never thought possible. Forget about past regrets. Changes made to your personal life, home and family will turn out well in the end. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Lighten up and enjoy what life has to offer. By doing so, you will attract the attention of someone you really want to spend more time with. A long-lasting relationship or partnership can be taken to the next level. Take action or you'll have regrets. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Money may be on your mind but the way you go about getting it must be on the level. You may be tempted to get involved in something that could lead to trouble. Instead, stick to the rules. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make those changes you've been contemplating. If you don't make your move, you will probably miss out on something that could lead to greater freedom. You can do no wrong when it comes to love. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Wait before you give the go-ahead or make a promise. There will be more involved than you first realized and little aggravations will crop up, holding you back and making your job more time-consuming than expected. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It will be difficult to separate your emotions from what needs to be done. Don't be fooled by what others tell you. Do your own research and don't give in to emotional blackmail. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be a real go-getter today but watch out—someone is likely to pull a fast one or try to catch you off-guard. Use your imagination and you will find solutions that will be difficult for even your biggest competitor to get wind of. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Present and promote your ideas and you can expand what you are trying to do into a money-maker. An unusual way of doing something will catch the eye of someone who can help you out financially. An emotional mix-up may infringe on your time. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't pay too much attention to someone who is trying to talk you into doing something you don't feel right about. Focus on learning, travel or spending time with the one you love. Plan an activity that requires physical exertion. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A change of heart will lead you in a better direction with greater status. You can close a deal, form a partnership and take a stance where love and romance are concerned. Play by the rules and win. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You question everything and everyone, never giving in. You are secretive, imaginative and emotional regarding personal issues, friends and family.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				5	3	8		
			2			5	7	
		4					1	9
	3				7			5
9								3
7			3				6	
1	9					6		
	7	8			1			
		5	4	7				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	9	5	4	7	8	1	3
3	8	4	1	2	9	6	7	5
1	5	7	3	8	6	2	4	9
5	9	8	6	7	1	4	3	2
6	4	2	8	9	3	7	5	1
7	3	1	2	5	4	9	8	6
8	7	3	9	1	2	5	6	4
9	1	5	4	6	8	3	2	7
4	2	6	7	3	5	1	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/30

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NAPA VALLEY **Solution: 8 letters**

T	L	C	T	M	Y	W	V	S	T	R	E	A	M	S
T	L	R	E	T	A	I	L	M	O	O	(L)	(I)	(O)	(S)
O	I	E	N	X	N	Y	I	V	A	D	N	A	L	D
P	H	E	B	E	S	W	A	T	E	R	M	I	S	I
S	L	K	Y	N	R	S	S	C	V	R	S	P	P	G
P	N	A	C	R	E	S	P	N	A	T	A	H	L	G
H	R	I	A	K	V	E	O	F	C	M	A	T	A	E
D	O	E	A	A	I	E	R	U	A	N	A	S	N	R
L	Y	L	R	T	R	C	C	G	T	L	I	S	T	S
E	G	O	D	H	N	O	R	T	I	H	R	A	S	E
A	L	W	O	R	G	U	B	M	O	I	E	E	R	L
F	A	U	N	A	O	N	O	I	N	L	G	R	E	T
Y	S	A	N	T	A	T	A	M	R	R	R	T	N	T
E	S	L	A	R	U	R	T	P	U	D	O	E	E	O
D	E	T	A	D	A	Y	S	B	A	H	S	S	M	B

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 1/31

Acres, Birds, Boats, Bottle, Burgess, Country, Creek, Crops, Dated, Days, Diggers, Farm, Fauna, Flora, Glass, Greenbelt, Grow, Hill, Hold, Hotel, House, Lake, Land, Leafy, Maps, Marsh, Mayacamas, Merlot, Milat, Mountains, Napa, Next, Pinot, Plants, Plenty, Retail, Rivers, Rural, Santa, Savor, Soil, Southern, Spot, Streams, Taste, Tour, Train, Trip, Vacation, Vineyard, Water, Year

Yesterday's Answer: Specialty

WONDERWORD offers the **"Book of Celebrities,"** for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune*'s print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

House for lease, 53+ years. Newly renovated 2BR/1BA in Fina Sisu near NMC. Asking $115K. Contact Scott or Melinda Crockett, 234-5260 or 788-1834. Call for appointment.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

FOR SALE COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar is now for sale $18K-$20K. Everything goes. Serious buyers only. Contact Les @ 233-1113, 898-4866

***NEW* Rattan Furniture**
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791, 433-9616, 285-7446

ACCOUNTANT (1)
Contact Judy Wei at Tel.# 234-3203
Eucon International School
Minimum of 5 years experience in general accounting, financial statement preparation and government reporting. Medical insurance and workers compensation are provided.

Female-
Sales Associate
Contact:
Doris 483-7002

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Announcement No. 08-002

POSITION TITLE: Marketing Manager
ANNUAL SALARY: $40,000.00 - $50,000.00**
***Salary will commensurate with qualifications*
LOCATION: Saipan, CNMI
OPENING DATE: January 28, 2008
CLOSING DATE: February 11, 2008
Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm on the closing date.

Minimum Qualification Requirements: Any combination equivalent to a graduate from a recognized college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, with two (2) years of marketing experience and two (2) years of supervisory experience. Applicant must have good communication skills (verbal and written) and must be proficient with using Microsoft Office software. Applicants may be required to take a written test as part of the application process. All applicants must be a U.S. citizen or an I.R. citizen of the CNMI. Copies of identification are required upon submission of application.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for an employment application form. A completed application should be submitted together with the required documents to complete the application process no later than the closing date of this announcement. Failure to submit all the required documentation will not be considered.

MVA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MONO	DITTO
MONO	DITTO
MONO	DITTO
MONO	DITTO
MONO	DITTO
MONO	DITTO

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ELECTRICIAN (TH 4635)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksmen compensation. Contact: GPPC, Inc. @234-7900.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4636)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Blue Ocean, LLC dba Blue Ocean @483-3493.

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (TH 4637)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Piao Investment Corp. @285-9308.

1 JANITOR (TH 4638)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Piao Investment Corp. @285-9308.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4639)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. dba Beau Global Services @285-9308.

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4640)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. dba Beau Global Services @285-9308.

1 CONTROLLER (TH 4641)
Salary:$700.00-$1,500.00/monthly. Benefits: $10.00-$50.00/gasoline monthly; $50.00-$350.00/housing monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan, Inc. @234-7053.

1 TOUR COORDINATOR (TH 4642)
Salary:$700.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $10.00-$50.00/gasoline monthly; $50.00-$350.00/housing monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan, Inc. @234-7053.

$200 REWARD FOR LOST WALLET
Brown wallet lost within the vicinity of Tony Roma's, Garapan on January 25, 2008 around 5 a.m. Important documents like entry permit (#156077) and drivers license (#12222003) needed to be returned to owner.
Reward of $200 will be given.
No questions asked.
If found or any information, please call 285-4469.

WHATZIT Solution: Six of one and half-a-dozen of another

1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (TH 4643)
Salary:$3.55-$4.11/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; medical benefits & worksmen compensation. Contact: Transamerica (Saipan) Corp. @234-1629.

1 SALES SUPERVISOR (TH 4644)
Salary:$3.55-$5.33/hour. Free housing; medical benefits & workmens compensation. Contact: Transamerica (Saipan) Corp. @234-1629.

1 MAINTENANCE (TH 4645)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: American Sunny Corporation @287-0909.

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TH 4646)
Salary:$3.55-$6.50/hour. Benefits: Worksmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

1 KITCHEN HELPER (TH 4647)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Worksmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. dba Barnys Pizza @234-7492.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4648)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American K&W Corp. @233-9468.

1 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (TH 4649)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Paid medical & workers compensation. Contact: American K&W Corp. @233-9468.

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union
PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950
Tel # (670) 664-3900 • Fax # (670) 664-3910

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has rescheduled its Thursday, January 24, 2008 meeting to Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at 1:00 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes December 19, 2007

II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
A. Collection Status
B. Financial Report-Monthly
C. Operational Matters

III. OLD BUSINESS
A. Audit Status
B. SCU

IV. NEW BUSINESS
A. Board Organization

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ **Debra T. Camacho**
Chairperson

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ASSISTANT MANAGER
(TH 4650)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American K&W Corp. dba Color Beauty Salon @233-9468.

---

1 FARMER (TH 4651)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deduction housing; $100.00/deduction food & medical. Contact: Anthony T. Benavente @322-2663/285-5396.

---

1 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR
(TH 4652)
Salary:$4.17/hour. Benefits: Free housing except utility; workers compensation; & medical bill is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine @234-3358.

---

1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4653)
Salary:$650.00-$2,600.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation by the employer; transportation to and from the job site by the employer; housing by the employer & medical at 80% by the employer and 20% bye the employee. Contact: Triple L Corporation dba Pacific Power House Co., @322-6183.

---

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (TH 4654)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: China Yanbian Frgn. Eco. & Tech. Coop. Corp. dba Seoul One Restaurant/Shinsen Restaurant @233-1900/233-1600.

3 COOK (TH 4655)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: China Yanbian Frgn. Eco. & Tech. Coop. Corp. dba Seoul One Restaurant/Shinsen Restaurant @233-1900/233-1600.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(TH 4656)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Saipan Magellan, Inc. dba Apple's Bar & Restaurant @285-7890.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4657)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $50.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Manuela A. Babauta @323-6550.

---

1 GROUND MAINTENANCE
(TH 4658)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical provided & workman compensation. Contact: Juan L. Babauta @323-6550.

---

1 CARPENTER (TH 4659)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical. Contact: Jesus R.A. Sonoda dba Chamorro House Enterprises @233-2600.

---

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE
REPAIRER (TH 4660)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Wang Jing Corporation dba Pacific Handicrafts @483-0527/235-8700.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(TH 4661)
Salary:$3.05-$3.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: RPM Corporation dba Reliable Gen. Contractor Reliable Gen. Maint. Service @234-3763/7763.

1 STEEL WORKER (TH 4662)
Salary:$3.05-$3.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: RPM Corporation dba Reliable Gen. Contractor Reliable Gen. Maint. Service @234-3763/7763.

---

1 BARTENDER (TH 4663)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; self arrange food. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises dba Joe's Bar & Grill @235-6657.

2 COOK (TH 4664)
Salary: $3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises dba Joe's Bar & Grill @235-6657.

1 COOK HELPER (TH 4665)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises dba Joe's Bar & Grill @235-6657.

---

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
(TH 4666)
Salary:$1,250.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provide food; medical provided & workers compensation coverage. Contact: GTS Enterprises, Inc. dba GTS Construction @234-8803/04.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(TH 4667)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. @234-8803/04.

---

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE
REPAIRER (TH 4668)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Gualo Rai Center, Inc. @234-6552.

---

1 AUTOCADD DRAFTMAN
(TH 4669)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Meridian Land Surveying, LLC @234-6552.

---

1 SALES (MANAGER) (TH 4670)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: ADPIA Communication Inc. dba Pink House @235-4499.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4671)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing monthly deduction; $100.00/food monthly deduction; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: Joe and Corazon Ada @285-6611.

---

1 DRESS MAKER (TH 4672)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: Perla Marquez dba Holiday Shop @233-6910.

---

1 FOOD ATTENDANT (TH 4673)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursement; transfer permit & workers compensation. Contact: Wall Street Empire, Inc. dba Barbeque Treats @234-3663.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4674)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursement & workers compensation. Contact: Wall Street Empire, Inc. dba Rugs to Riches Manpower @234-3663.

---

1 BEAUTICIAN (TH 4675)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmens & health expense company provided. Contact: Genoveva's Hair Power Inc. dba Genoveva's Salon for Men & Women @234-6378.

---

1 RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR (TH 4676)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/monthly housing; $100.00/deductible food; workmens & health expenses company provided. Contact: D'Elegance Ent., Inc. dba D'Elegance Rest. @234-9227.

7 COOK (TH 4677)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/monthly housing; $100.00/deductible food; workmens & health expenses company provided. Contact: D'Elegance Ent., Inc. dba D'Elegance Rest. @234-9227.

---

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4678)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $100.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Margarita DLG. Castro @235-0627.

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4679)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $100.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Margarita DLG. Castro @235-0627.

---

1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4680)
Salary:$634.46-$900.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: G.C.G. & Company, Inc. @322-7166.

2 CARPENTER (TH 4681)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: G.C.G. & Company, Inc. @322-7166.

1 PAINTER (TH 4682)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: G.C.G. & Company, Inc. @322-7166.

---

1 INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4683)
Salary:$3.55-$6.00/hour. Must pass a drug-free periodic test. Able to lift 60lbs. Benefits: $175.00/monthly housing benefits; self provided food; medical insurance coverage & workmens compensation coverage. Contact: Fleet Marine, LLC. dba Fleet Marine Trading @233-0744.

---

1 PRIVATE NURSE (TH 4684)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation. Contact: Salim M. Reza @233-0495.

---

1 FARMER (TH 4685)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba GTS Enterprises Inc. @234-8803/04.

2 MASON (TH 4686)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's & medical coverage. Free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba GTS Enterprises Inc. @234-8803/04.

2 CARPENTER (TH 4687)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's & medical coverage. Free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba GTS Enterprises Inc. @234-8803/04.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4688)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employer provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. @234-8803/04.

---

32 SECURITY GUARD (TH 4689)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided food; medical provided & workmen's compensation coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc. dba GTS Security @234-8803/4.

---

1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4690)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba Paras Enterprises Saipan @234-8803/4.

---

1 ASST. FACTORY MANAGER (TH 4691)
Salary:$3.55-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (TH 4692)
Salary:$3.55-$4.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

69 SEWER, HAND (TH 4693)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR (TH 4694)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 (BLDG) MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4695)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 FACTORY MANAGER (TH 4696)
Salary:$3.55-$5.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC (TH 4697)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

6 SEWER, HAND HELPER (TH 4698)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER (TH 4699)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 MAINT. MECH. SUPERVISOR (TH 4700)
Salary:$3.55-$6.30/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER (TH 4701)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 COOK (TH 4702)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 CLERK, GENERAL (TH 4703)
Salary:$3.55-$4.20/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 ASSISTANT WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR (TH 4704)
Salary:$3.55-$3.90/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4705)
Salary:$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

The Saipan Tribune now offers
Classified Ads Super Saver Package
for Print and Online Editions
A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more…
3-LINER AD $25
3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45
5-LINER AD $35
5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55
Get results. Advertise now!
Call now at 235-2769 for more details.
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
SUNDAY
Liquidated Fund assets
CLASSIFIED ADS
FOR SALE
FOR RENT

Mets, Twins agree on Johan Santana trade

NEW YORK (AP)—Johan Santana is a contract extension and physical from joining the New York Mets. Beating out the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, the Mets reached a tentative agreement Tuesday to acquire the two-time Cy Young Award winner, two people familiar with the deal said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

Minnesota would receive speedy outfielder Carlos Gomez, and pitchers Philip Humber, Deolis Guerra and Kevin Mulvey.

"If it's true, obviously, you're getting arguably the best pitcher in the game," Mets third baseman David Wright said.

What originally appeared to be a bidding war for Santana early in the offseason turned into something more akin to a negotiation of attrition in which first the Yankees and then the Red Sox appeared to lose interest and decide they'd rather hold onto their top prospects.

The Mets emerged as the top candidate after December's winter meetings, when the Yankees withdrew their offer, which included pitcher Phil Hughes and outfielder Melky Cabrera, and the Red Sox refused to improve their proposals, which would have sent pitcher Jon Lester or outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury to the Twins along with other prospects.

Santana can become a free agent after this year's World Series, and Minnesota offered him an $80 million, four-year extension that he turned down early in the offseason.

Twins general manager Bill Smith called teams last weekend and asked them to make their best offers. Smith informed the Mets on Tuesday that he was accepting their proposal.

Arriving at the annual Baseball Assistance Team fundraising dinner Tuesday night, New York general manager Omar Minaya wouldn't say much.

"It's out there, but the bottom line is that we're trying to look at ways at improving our club," Minaya said. "That's all I'm going to be able to say about it right now."

Preparing for their final season at Shea Stadium and their 2009 move to Citi Field, the Mets landed the top available pitcher on the market. The trade is one of the two biggest of the offseason, along with Detroit's acquisition of third baseman Miguel Cabrera and pitcher Dontrelle Willis from Florida.

Minnesota will receive New York's Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 7 prospects, according to Baseball America's ranking. The Mets did not include their top farmhand, outfielder Fernando Martinez, or their top young pitcher, Mike Pelfrey.

The next step is for the Mets to negotiate a contract extension with Santana. The three-time All-Star is owed $13.25 million this year and likely will seek an extension of five-to-seven years worth at least $20 million annually.

New York and Santana have until 5 p.m. EST Friday to reach an agreement, a baseball official told The Associated Press, also on condition of anonymity. If the Mets and Santana strike a deal, the players would have to pass physicals and the pitcher would have to formally waive his no-trade clause.

A left-hander who turns 29 in March, Santana gives the Mets a replacement for Tom Glavine, who left New York to return to the Atlanta Braves. New York, trying to bounce back from a record-setting September collapse last season, has a projected rotation that also includes Pedro Martinez, John Maine, Oliver Perez and Orlando Hernandez or Pelfrey.

Santana is 93-44 with a 3.22 ERA in eight major league seasons, winning the AL Cy Young Award in 2004 and 2006. He has been less successful in the playoffs, going 1-3 with a 3.97 ERA.

Santana had a subpar season in 2007, going 15-13. He lost seven of his last 11 decisions as his ERA rose from 2.60 to 3.33 ERA, his highest since 2001, and he allowed a career-high 33 homers—the most in the AL.

For the Mets, the hope is that he will be the next in a long line of aces behind Tom Seaver, Dwight Gooden, Glavine and Martinez.

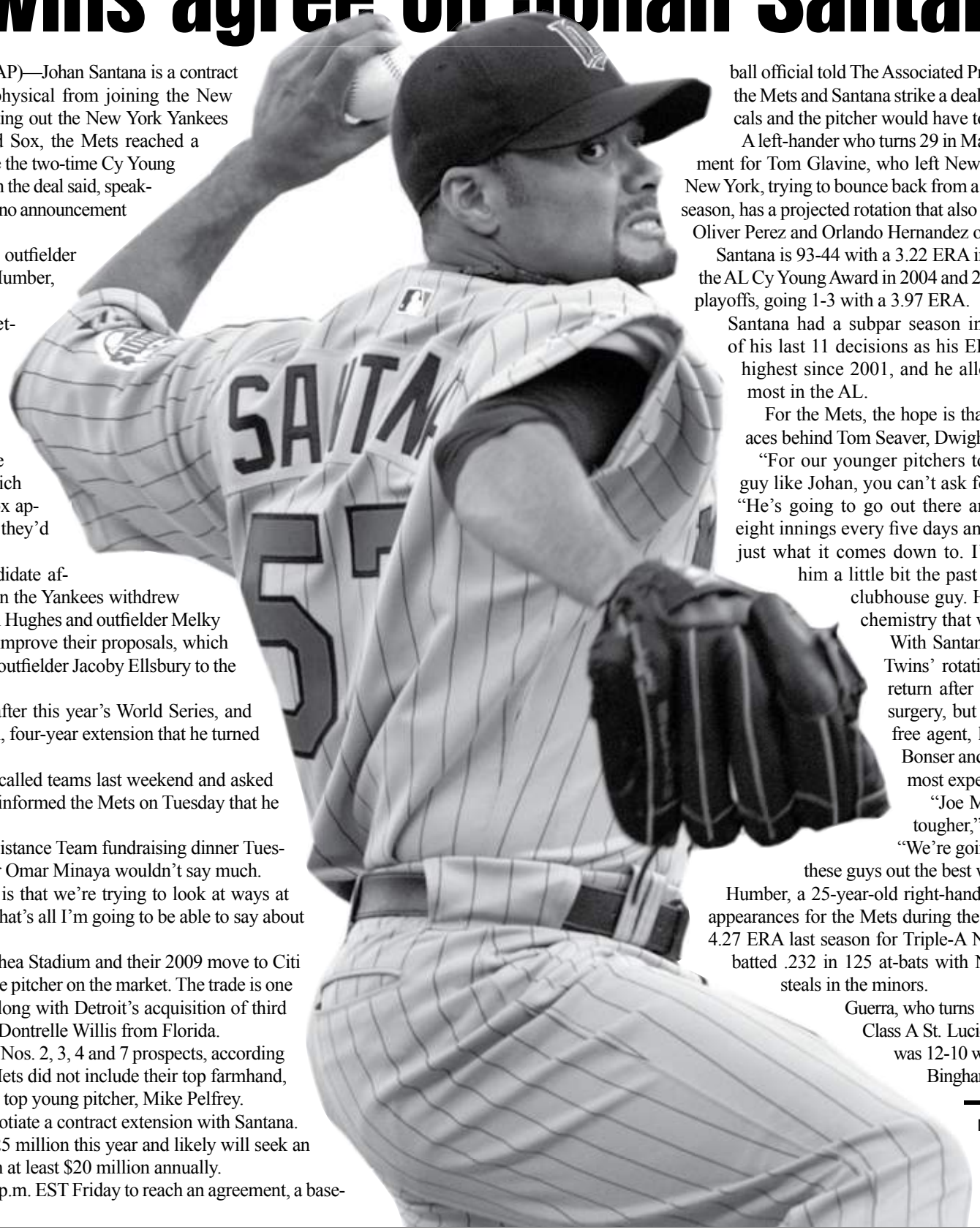
"For our younger pitchers to develop under a guy like Pedro, a guy like Johan, you can't ask for any better situation," Wright said. "He's going to go out there and he's going to give you seven or eight innings every five days and he's going to get you a win. That's just what it comes down to. I've gotten a chance to get to know him a little bit the past couple years. He seems like a great clubhouse guy. He's going to fit in perfectly with the chemistry that we have."

With Santana gone, there is a big opening in the Twins' rotation. Francisco Liriano is on track to return after missing last season following elbow surgery, but Carlos Silva signed with Seattle as a free agent, leaving youngsters Scott Baker, Boof Bonser and Kevin Slowey as the starters with the most experience.

"Joe Mauer's job, and my job, just got a lot tougher," backup catcher Mike Redmond said. "We're going to have to work a lot harder to help these guys out the best we can."

Humber, a 25-year-old right-hander, has made one start and four relief appearances for the Mets during the past two years, and went 11-9 with a 4.27 ERA last season for Triple-A New Orleans. The 22-year-old Gomez batted .232 in 125 at-bats with New York last year and .275 with 19 steals in the minors.

Guerra, who turns 19 in April, was 2-6 with a 4.01 ERA at Class A St. Lucie, and Mulvey, who will be 23 in May, was 12-10 with a 3.20 ERA in 26 starts at Double-A Binghamton and one at New Orleans.



Minnesota Twins starter Johan Santana pitches against the Detroit Tigers in the fourth inning of a baseball game in this June 29, 2007 file photo, in Detroit.
AP

Lawyer: Andy Pettitte will back trainer

WASHINGTON (AP)—A lawyer for Andy Pettitte's former personal trainer said Tuesday he believes the pitcher will tell Congress he discussed human growth hormone with Roger Clemens between the 2001 and 2002 seasons.

The lawyer, Earl Ward, said Pettitte talked about HGH with trainer Brian McNamee following a conversation with Clemens, who has denied that he used HGH or steroids. McNamee worked with both Clemens and Pettitte.

"We're hopeful based on Andy's reputation that he will corroborate Brian's statements with regard to Roger," Ward said in a telephone interview.

Pettitte's meeting with a congressional committee investigating drug use in baseball was postponed until Monday. He originally was slated to appear for a deposition or transcribed interview Wednesday but the date was changed Tuesday by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

McNamee said in last month's Mitchell Report that he injected Clemens at least 16 times with steroids or HGH in 1998, 2000 and 2001. He said he injected Pettitte two to four times with HGH.

Pettitte admitted two days after the Mitchell Report was released that he tried HGH for two days in 2002—before it was banned by players and owners.

Ward said the discussion he was referring to occurred at Clemens' house.

"Based on what we know, there was a situation where Andy was speaking to Roger in Brian's presence, then Andy came over to Brian and essentially said, 'Why didn't you tell me about this stuff?' He referred to HGH," Ward said. "Brian discouraged him and then several months later, when he (Pettitte) got injured, he came back and asked Brian about it, and that's when Brian injected him. We believe that based on the fact that Andy came to Brian and asked him about HGH, it was Roger who told Andy about HGH and that's why he asked Brian about it."

Richard Emery, another lawyer for McNamee, said his client and Pettitte also discussed steroids use by Clemens.

"Pettitte is certainly going to tell the truth and if he tells the truth everything will be fine," Emery said.

"There are a number of conversations where Pettitte and Brian talked about Clemens' use. I think there is everything to believe Pettitte is not a liar."

Jay Reisinger, Pettitte's lawyer, would not discuss what Pettitte would say.

"He hasn't testified yet, and I'm not going to comment on what he's going to testify about," Reisinger said.

Lanny Breuer, Clemens' new lawyer, said the seven-time Cy Young Award winner stood by his denials.

"Roger Clemens' remarkable success as a pitcher has everything to do with his extraordinary work ethic and his innate abilities, and nothing to do with HGH or steroids," Breuer said in a statement. "Let me be clear: Roger Clemens never took HGH and he never took steroids."

Ward's claims about the discussion were first reported by The New York Times on its Web site.

The delay of Pettitte's deposition or transcribed interview was the latest switch in the schedule of meetings between witnesses and staff before the Feb. 13 hearing.

"Just a mutually agreeable postponement," said Keith Ausbrook, Republican general counsel for the committee. "It give us a little more time to prepare and gives him a little more time to prepare."

Also asked to appear at next month's hearing are Clemens, McNamee, former Yankees second baseman Chuck Knoblauch, and former New York Mets clubhouse employee Kirk Radomski.

"Mr. Pettitte is cooperating voluntarily with the committee, and we look forward to his testimony on Monday," panel chairman Henry Waxman and ranking Republican Tom Davis said in a joint statement. "We appreciate Mr. Pettitte's willingness to assist the committee."

Knoblauch now is scheduled for Friday and would be the first of the five Feb. 13 witnesses to provide a deposition or transcribed interview. He agreed to appear after a subpoena was issued.

Clemens is to follow Feb. 5, with McNamee down for Feb. 7, and Radomski on Feb. 12 - pending further changes to a repeatedly shuffled schedule.

Letters sent by Waxman and Davis to Clemens, Pettitte and Knoblauch on Jan. 16, requesting their appearances both at the hearing and a pre-hearing meeting, said: "The committee asks that you provide testimony about allegations in Senator George Mitchell's report ... that you and other Major League Baseball players used performance enhancing drugs during your professional baseball career."

Clemens, Pettitte and Knoblauch were among more than 80 players named in the Mitchell Report.

McNamee told Mitchell he acquired HGH from Radomski for Knoblauch in 2001, and that he injected the player with it. Knoblauch's major league career ended in 2002.

Radomski pleaded guilty in April to federal felony charges of distributing steroids and laundering money, and is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 8.

The 35-year-old Pettitte has a 201-113 major league record and won four World Series championships with the Yankees. He also helped his hometown Houston Astros reach their first World Series.

Pettitte returned to the Yankees last season and went 15-9. This offseason, he put off retirement and agreed to a $16 million, one-year contract to play for the Yankees next season.

Brady holds court and plays the charmer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—His blue eyes twinkling, Tom Brady looked at his interviewer and tried not to laugh. A tough thing, considering the young woman was wearing a very short white wedding dress, veil and red pumps.

"Marry me" the TV reporter from Mexico City said.

"I have a few Mrs. Bradys in my life," he answered neatly.

Trading the pocket for a podium near the 50-yard line, the NFL's reigning pretty boy was in All-Pro form Tuesday. Hard to believe anyone in sports could work a room better at the Super Bowl, even if this room happened to be the University of Phoenix Stadium and could seat 63,000 people.

For nearly an hour, the New England Patriots quarterback was the star attraction at media day. His effect was noticeable—nearly everyone appeared to walk away with a smile, positively charmed.

"Thanks, Prime," he said after briefly bantering with Deion Sanders.

"Do the right thing," he earnestly advised a preteen boy who somehow got a credential.

"I'm rooting for England, my roots," he told a British journalist who asked about rugby.

There was a model from "Deal or No Deal," toting a silver case and working for "Entertainment Tonight." "Inside Edition" and "Access Hollywood" and the NFL Network were well represented, too.

Brady came up with an answer for everything—yes, he said, girlfriend Gisele Bundchen planned to attend Sunday's big game against the New York Giants.

While other players might regard media day as a chore, he seemed to savor every moment, turning the session into a variety show with Tom Brady as the handsome, dimpled host.

"Someone have a dumb question? I need a dumb question," he said.

Prompted, one of the 200 or so reporters clustered around him shouted out: "Who's your favorite band?"

"U2," he said without missing a beat.

Be it the weather in New Hampshire, his boyhood coach back home in the Bay Area or the ol' boondoggle play—an end-around with a kick, he was told—he handled each subject with ease, as if dissecting a cover-2 defense. He often slowly repeated questions, for playful effect.

"How is my Zen-ness holding up?" he repeated.

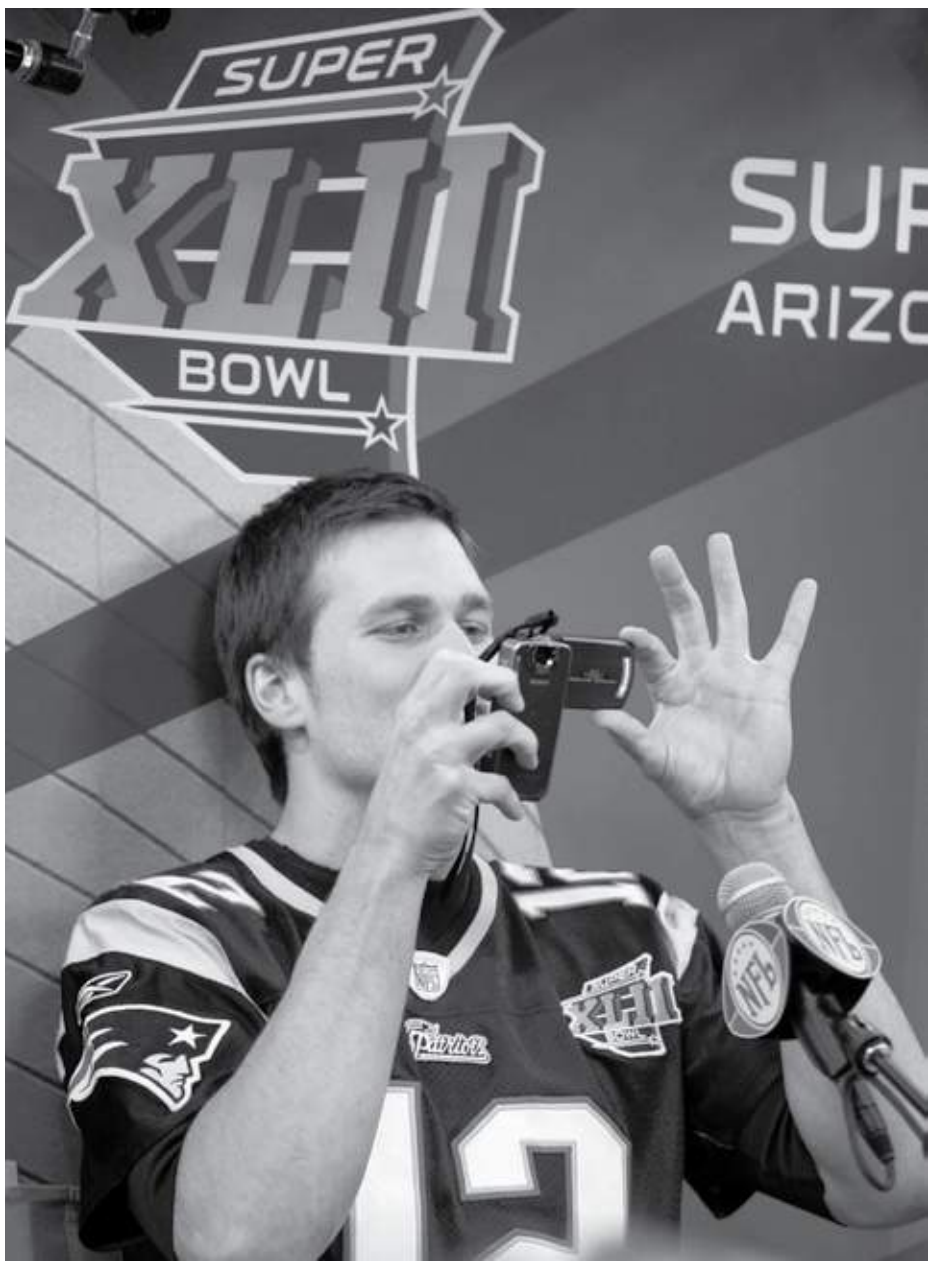
"How do I feel about being the stud of the NFL?" he asked.

Occasionally, Brady called a timeout. He'd pluck a camera off the tabletop in front of him and snap a picture of the assembled crush.

"I'm not going to remember this someday," he said.

Chances are, he'll get a few more opportunities. At 30, he'll play for his fourth Super Bowl title when the Patriots try to close out a perfect season with a win over the Giants.

For the record, Brady did talk a little about football. Just a bit, though, because he rarely got two questions in a row about the sport he plays.



AP

New England Patriots Tom Brady takes a picture of the media interviewing him during Super Bowl media day at University of Phoenix Stadium, the site of Super Bowl XLII, in Glendale, Ariz., Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008.

"Either way, win or lose, this game is going to be history," Brady said.

Asked about his role on the Patriots, his status as the NFL's go-to guy and the belief by many that he's an American hero, he turned reflective.

"I throw a football. I happen to do that well enough to be on this platform," he said. "I don't think any of us cure cancer."

Humble, by all accounts.

"I love Tom Brady," Giants defensive end Michael Strahan said during his team's media session. "He doesn't put himself above the guys. He's one of the guys, even though he has all these other things going on for him."

Like Gisele.

A couple of days earlier, Brady avoided saying whether she would be at the game. Probably the effect of getting pounded by the paparazzi in New York last week when he limped into Bundchen's apartment with a walking boot and a bouquet of flowers.

On this day, Brady didn't try to dodge when an old pal asked him.

"Hi, Maria," he called out after spotting Massachusetts-born Maria Menounos, a correspondent for "Access Hollywood" and the "Today" show. "A local girl. You want to suit up?"

She was easy to see, even from a back riser—she wore Brady's No. 12 Patriots jersey, one that he autographed. Brady cheerfully told a story about throwing her a pass, one that jammed her finger.

So when she wondered where Bundchen would be on game day, Brady gave a hint. He waved his arm toward the empty upper deck and said: "I don't know where. She'll be around."

Bundchen apparently isn't the only one who loves Brady.

Let's not forget the woman in the wedding dress. She was Ines Gomez Mont, an entertainment reporter for TV Azteca in Mexico City.

Brady played along but let her know, "I'm a one-woman man."

She could accept that.

"He is very gorgeous. I know Gisele is very gorgeous," she said. "Good for them."

T.O. still owes Eagles nearly $800,000

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Terrell Owens should set aside part of his roster bonus from Dallas to pay his old team a debt. An arbitrator ruled in favor of the Philadelphia Eagles last Friday on a grievance that was filed by the NFL players' union on Owens' behalf in 2005.

A team spokesman said the Eagles would not comment. Owens' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, did not return a phone message.

The union disputed the Eagles' effort to recover $1.725 million of the $2.3 million signing bonus the team paid the wide receiver when it signed him to a seven-year, $48.97 million deal in 2004.

Owens was kicked off the team seven games into the 2005 season for a series of infractions, including repeated criticism of quarterback Donovan McNabb and lashing out against management. He was suspended four games without pay and the team withheld his final five paychecks, totaling $955,880. That means Owens still owes the Eagles $769,120.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said this month he plans to pay Owens a $3 million roster bonus, so the All-Pro should have some extra cash to pay the Eagles.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, citing a league source, first reported arbitrator Shyam Das ruled against Owens. An NFL spokesman confirmed the report to The Associated Press.

Unsettled Kidd leads Nets to beat Bucks, end losing streak

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—A day after pushing for a trade away from New Jersey, Jason Kidd scored seven points in the final 1:42 to secure the Nets' 87-80 win over Milwaukee in the NBA on Tuesday.

Kidd added 11 assists as the Nets snapped a nine-game losing streak.

Ignoring the distractions Kidd created a day earlier with his comments, the Nets held the Bucks to 37.5 percent shooting and avoided their first double-digit skid since the 1999-00 season.

The Bucks were without leading scorer Michael Redd for the second straight game, and he will miss Wednesday too.

Rockets 111, Warriors 107

In Houston, Yao Ming scored eight of his 36 points in the final 2-1/2 minutes and had 19 rebounds to help Houston hold on against Golden State.

Houston overcame the absence of Tracy McGrady to win for the fifth time in six games and snapped a four-game losing streak to the Warriors.

Suns 125, Hawks 92

In Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 22 of his 24 points in the first half, setting up the Suns to beat Atlanta.

Stoudemire, who played only 8 minutes in the second half, made 10 of his 11 field-goal attempts and four of his five free throws. He also had a team-high seven rebounds in the Suns' season-best sixth straight home win.

The Hawks lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Bulls 96, Timberwolves 85

In Chicago, Kirk Hinrich finished with 27 points and the Bulls spoiled Randy Foye's return from a knee injury by beating Minnesota.

Although they began the night with the NBA's worst record, the Timberwolves were showing signs of progress. They had won three of four, beating Phoenix along the way, and the lone loss during that stretch was by one point to NBA leaders Boston.

Pistons 110, Pacers 104

In Indianapolis, Rasheed Wallace had 24 points and 10 rebounds to help Detroit beat Indiana.

The Pistons remain only four games off the pace set by Boston in the Eastern Conference.

The Pacers have lost four in a row.

Wizards 108, Raptors 104, OT

In Washington, Andray Blatche had 19 points and eight rebounds in only his second start of the season to lead Washington to an overtime victory over Toronto.

Antawn Jamison finished with 24 points and 20 rebounds for the Wizards.

The Raptors trailed by as many as 12 points in the fourth quarter before Anthony Parker's high-arcing 3-pointer curled into the net as the regulation buzzer sounded, forcing the extra period.

Celtics 117, Heat 87

In Miami, Leon Powe scored a career-high 25 points with 11 rebounds to lead Boston to an overwhelming victory over Miami—who followed the win that snapped their 15-game losing streak with an absolute clunker.

Rajon Rondo tied a career-high with 23 points and Tony Allen scored 20 points with six assists for the Celtics, who cruised to victory despite being without Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, while the third member of their star triumvirate, Paul Pierce, was scoreless for most of the first half.

Lakers 120, Knicks 109

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant had 24 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and Los Angeles rallied to beat New York.

Sasha Vujacic scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for the Lakers, who trailed 99-91 when Vujacic made a pair of 3-pointers to get them going.

Zach Randolph's basket with 3:10 left drew the Knicks within two points before the Lakers scored the next 10 points to clinch the victory.

SuperSonics 88, Spurs 85

In Seattle, the home team stunned defending NBA champion San Antonio to finally end a team-record losing streak at 14 games.

Kevin Durant scored 26 points, including the go-ahead jump shot with 32.6 seconds remaining.

Luke Ridnour hit a free throw with 12 seconds left before Manu Ginobili, who had 29 points, missed a 3-point attempt with 4.9 seconds remaining that would have tied it.

The Spurs lost for a season-high third consecutive time while playing without star Tony Parker. The point guard will be out indefinitely with a bone spur in his left heel.

San Antonio is now 9-9 this season without Parker, Ginobili or Tim Duncan.

Saipan Little League season opens Feb. 8

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

The 2008 season of the Saipan Little League is set to open on Feb. 8, Friday, at 6pm at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Saipan Little League Baseball Association officials, led by 2008 president Juan I. Tenorio, is inviting all teams to attend the opening ceremonies.

The league was originally scheduled to open on Feb. 7, Thursday, but was moved to Friday due to the unavailability of the baseball field, which is being used by a Korean baseball team for their training.

Games in the four Little League divisions start on Feb. 9, Saturday, with close to 30 teams in the Majors, Junior, Senior, and Big league divisions will vie for their respective titles.

A total of 10 teams have signified their intention to join the Majors division of the Saipan Little League led by the fourth-title seeking Patriots.

The SLLBA is hoping to again tap the support of local businesses for their 2008 season where they plan to again talk to various businesses on Saipan to become their financial supporter.

Aside from planning the 2008 season, SLLBA officials with the help of CNMI Little League district administrator James Ada will also start their preparation for the hosting of the district and regional tournaments.

Saipan will be hosting Tinian and Rota in the 2008 CNMI District Tournament. The winners of the district tournament will represent the CNMI in the regional meet where they will be facing teams from Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines,

Aside from Tenorio, the other SLLBA officers for 2008 are vice president and player agent Michael A. Borja, secretary Bobbie Norita-Techur, treasurer Annie Deleon Guerrero Flores, chief statistician Roque Celis, safety officer Ben Taitano, umpire consultant James Miwata, and managers' representative George N. Camacho.

Mesa continues with Price Costco cage clinic

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Arnold Mesa and Price Costco continued with their basketball clinics last Saturday, hosting another group of youngsters on the fundamentals of the sport at the Mt. Carmel School Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Arnold Mesa, second left, joins students, players, and the coaching staff of Mt. Carmel School in last Saturday's clinic held at the campus gymnasium.

Mesa spent Saturday afternoon with more than 20 youngsters age 17 and under, teaching them the quality and contents of basketball.

The veteran CNMI and Guam referee said aside from teaching the kids the basics, he also taught them to be patient and how to be confident inside the court.

"Teaching courage and making them learn the principles of faith is a time tested message. [Be] patient and it will come your way. Work hard in everything you do," said Mesa.

Mesa added players must practice regularly which is a good work ethic as it helps them develop self-esteem, build self confidence, and it would lead to good results since they would be consistent with their games.

He is inviting other youngsters to join him in other clinics that he plans to organize in the coming months. "The more [they] learn new things, the more [they] discover a lot of things that [they] don't know."

Last month, Mesa with the help of Price Costco, conducted a basketball youth clinic at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium from Dec. 26 to 28.

Southern Sonics coach Jesse Tudela, who asked Mesa to help him train the Junior Sonics, requested the clinic.

Close to 40 from Tudela's Sonics basketball program and Mt. Carmel School athletes and coaches participated in the three-day clinic, which covered the basic basketball violations. The clinic also lasted three hours a day.

For more information, call Mesa at 868-6578.

LEE

From Page 28

ments. She has been training for one hour everyday with coach/trainer Lope Padilla at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.

Padilla said Lee's workout with him is to fine-tune her game and to keep her at peak level. "So far I worked with her serve, volley, and ground strokes."

Padilla added he also worked on Lee's consistency and her returns to have more spin.

After the Canterbury Championships, Lee will head to Wellington to join the Wellington 18-and-under Summer Championships from Feb. 11 to 16 at the Renouf Tennis Center at Brooklyn Road, Brooklyn.

Unlike in the Canterbury Championships where she is entered in the main draw, Lee this time will have to battle 15 other junior players for the eight qualifying spots at stake in the week-long event.

The two junior tennis tournaments are ITF world junior ranking events where players can earn points.

Lee is expected to return to Saipan on Feb. 19.

MENUDO

From Page 28

Menudo and the Islanders hold similar 4-1 marks but the former earned the right of occupying the top spot based on points scored, points allowed, and number of sets won.

Menudo already scored a total of 312 points, while limiting their opponents to a combined 239 markers and at the same time won 13 sets while dropping only two.

Menudo, with its tall frontline led by Tyce Mister, Mark McDonald, Bruce Berline, and Dale Roberts, built an early lead in the first set then quashed repeated rallies made by Ol'Aces to use it as a momentum builder heading into the second frame.

Almost the same thing happened in the second set but Ol'Aces showed some resistance midway in the game. Leading at 13-8, Menudo was held by Ol'Aces to an almost one-minute rally as both teams did not want to give up the point that easily.

The rally ended in Menudo's favor as Ol'Aces' frontline failed to return Tyce Mister's spike for a 14-8 lead that brought cheers from their fans.

That rally, however, did not deter Ol'Aces as they battled back into the game scoring six straight points to tie the count. Those six points were hard earned as both teams battled through longer rallies.

Menudo proved to have the energy for the long haul showing nerves of steel and used an 11-6 exchange to secure the win. The third set was still played for tiebreak purposes and Menudo completed the sweep.

In other games, CH-Hammer also scored their second straight win and first three-set sweep a 25-21, 25-23, 15-5 triumph over Beach Jammers, while Fanians downed No Fear, 25-19, 25-21, 12-15.

The Islanders bounced back from a 21-25, 7-25, 7-15 loss to Menudo by escaping with a 25-17, 20-25, 16-14 decision over Home Boyz.

In the lone game in the women's division, Beach Jammers defeated YoYo's, 25-18, 25-15, 8-15.

Today's games in the men's league will have CH-Hammer going for their third straight victory against a winless Ma Numel'u in the 6pm first game and will be followed by the Ol'Aces-No Fear 7pm game.

At 8pm, the Beach Jammers take on the Islanders, while Fanians battle home Boyz in the 9pm nightcap. Menudo will take a bye.

In the women's division, Seikid and Ta Chagi each will play twice today. Seikid will open up the games against Pikan Gaga at 6pm then collide with Ta Chagi at 8pm. The 7pm game will be between Ta Chagi and YoYo's. The Beach Jammers will have a bye.

For more information, call Cramer at 235-6231 at ext. 5148 or e-mail him at seaexec@picsaipan.com or Janice Camacho at 868-9515 or 323-6565 or 66 or 67 or 68 or e-mail her at nonose98@gmail.com.

TWO

From Page 28

mitted to compete, according to Stewart.

"In total I expect at least 10 teams to swim. If this is a success, I will host two maybe three more each year," he added.

SSC's long but exciting weekend concludes with the 3rd Annual Meek & Mighty Lagoon Swim on Sunday, Feb. 3.

The event, hosted by SSC and sponsored by Pacific Islands, will have three races in all—the 1,000m Meek; the 3,000m Tweener, and the 5,000m Mighty.

Fees for the Meek & Mighty race are $5 for SSC members, $10 for Nadador Master members, and $15 for all non-members.

Stewart said fees include race fee, waffle breakfast at PIC beach following the race, plus an all-day pass at the PIC waterpark on that day.

Registration for the Meek & Mighty begins at 7am on Sunday PIC beach and race starts 8am. Participants are encouraged to park their cars 200m south of PIC and walk up to the beach.

He said he expects the two events to serve as great warm-up races for this year's XTERRA Saipan Championship and the Tagaman.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet and 3rd Annual Meek & Mighty Lagoon Swim, contact Stewart at 287-9474 (WISH).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	8	.814	–
Toronto	24	20	.545	11 1/2
New Jersey	19	26	.422	17
Philadelphia	17	28	.378	19
New York	14	30	.318	21 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	28	18	.609	–
Washington	24	19	.558	2 1/2
Atlanta	18	23	.439	7 1/2
Charlotte	18	27	.400	9 1/2
Miami	9	34	.209	17 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	32	13	.711	–
Cleveland	24	19	.558	7
Indiana	19	27	.413	13 1/2
Chicago	18	26	.409	13 1/2
Milwaukee	18	28	.391	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

New Orleans	32	12	.727	–
Dallas	31	13	.705	1
San Antonio	28	16	.636	4
Houston	25	20	.556	7 1/2
Memphis	13	32	.289	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	27	18	.600	–
Denver	26	18	.591	1/2
Portland	26	18	.591	1/2
Seattle	10	35	.222	17
Minnesota	8	36	.182	18 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	33	13	.717	–
L.A. Lakers	28	15	.651	3 1/2
Golden State	27	19	.587	6
Sacramento	19	24	.442	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	13	28	.317	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Detroit 110, Indiana 104
Washington 108, Toronto 104, OT
Boston 117, Miami 87
New Jersey 87, Milwaukee 80
Chicago 96, Minnesota 85
Houston 111, Golden State 107
Phoenix 125, Atlanta 92
Seattle 88, San Antonio 85
L.A. Lakers 120, New York 109

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, Clev.	38	406	276	1138	29.9
Bryant, LAL	42	393	309	1170	27.9
Iverson, Den.	44	388	362	1184	26.9
Anthony, Den.	40	374	248	1021	25.5
Wade, Mia.	34	299	254	861	25.3
Jefferson, N.J.	44	337	351	1060	24.1
Redd, Mil.	40	304	232	919	23.0
Stoudemire, Phoe.	42	353	244	953	22.7
Boozer, Utah	44	416	160	992	22.5
Bosh, Tor.	38	290	273	854	22.5
Nowitzki, Dall.	44	347	250	981	22.3
Davis, G.S.	45	347	208	1003	22.3
Yao, Hou.	43	339	273	951	22.1
Butler, Wash.	41	340	173	898	21.9
Howard, Orl.	46	340	327	1007	21.9
J. Johnson, Atl.	40	305	176	864	21.6
Wallace, Char.	44	321	248	940	21.4
Jamison, Wash.	42	333	160	895	21.3
Jefferson, Minn.	43	373	162	908	21.1
Carter, N.J.	39	291	189	818	21.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Bynum, LAL	189	297	.636
Biedrins, G.S.	198	317	.625
Chandler, N.O.	211	348	.606
Howard, Orl.	340	570	.596
Stoudemire, Phoe.	353	599	.589
O'Neal, Mia.	187	322	.581
Childress, Atl.	149	262	.569
Garnett, Bos.	309	561	.551
Boozer, Utah	416	760	.547
Curry, N.Y.	232	425	.546

Rebounds

	GOFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	46168	518	686	14.9
Camby, Den.	43136	473	609	14.2
Kaman, LAC	39127	416	543	13.9
Chandler, N.O.	43193	340	533	12.4
Jefferson, Minn.	43173	346	519	12.1
Duncan, S.A.	39124	308	432	11.1
Yao, Hou.	43137	324	461	10.7
Boozer, Utah	44114	356	470	10.7
Jamison, Wash.	42118	319	437	10.4
Okafor, Char.	45155	310	465	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, Phoe.	44	524	11.9
Paul, N.O.	42	449	10.7
Kidd, N.J.	43	447	10.4
Williams, Utah	45	427	9.5
Tinsley, Ind.	36	311	8.6
Calderon, Tor.	43	371	8.6
Davis, G.S.	45	366	8.1
James, Clev.	38	277	7.3
Felton, Char.	42	299	7.1
Billups, Det.	42	296	7.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Indoor Standings
Men's Division

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Menudo	4	1	312	239	13
Islanders	4	1	277	290	8
Home Boyz	3	2	300	282	10
CH-Hammer	3	2	287	264	8
No Fear	2	2	248	233	7
Fanians	2	2	228	229	6
Ol'Aces	2	2	227	244	5
Ma Numel'u	0	4	218	262	3
Beach Jammers	0	4	211	265	0

Women's Division

Pikan Gaga	2	0	126	110	4
Beach Jammers	2	1	165	172	5
YoYo's	1	2	178	183	4
Ta Chagi	0	1	59	57	1
Sekid	0	1	64	70	1

PF-Points for
PA-Points allowed
SW-Sets won

Wakai Nekko No Kai golf tourney raises close to 5K

Far left, Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament champion Ben Jones receives his cash prize from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Left, Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament runner-up Nick Sablan receives his cash prize from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament almost reached its fundraising target of $5,000.

Last week, Marianas Visitors Authority director J.M. Guerrero said he hopes the one-day golf benefit would be able to come up with the said amount, but at a little over $4,000, the money raised would definitely come in handy to help Wakai Nekko No Kai Foundation president Hideo Kato resume the floating university's 40th trip to Saipan in 2009.

Benjamin Jones topped the event last Wednesday's event held at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort after he finished the Peoria-format competition with the best net score of 70.2.

Jones was followed in the leaderboard by a couple of former national players in Nick Sablan and Jeff Taylor, each finishing with an identical net score of 70.8. Another national player, 2003 and 2006 member Jess Wabol, finished fourth and part of the money list with a net score of 71.2.

For landing in the Top 4, Jones, Sablan, Taylor, and Wabol went home with $400, $300, $200, and $100, respectively.

A total of 58 players took part in the weekday golf benefit.

The companies and individuals, meanwhile, that supported the tournament were Budget Car Rental, Big Boys Marine, Tournament of Champions, Microl Corporation, DFS, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Stars & Stripes, Coral Ocean Pont, Saipan Sea Venture, Kingfisher Golf Links, MARPAC, Bizaid Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Truong's, Fleming Hotel, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Coco Restaurant, Seabridge, Capricciosa, Hula Girl, Shelly's Pizza, Aqua Resort Club, Kinpachi, 360 Restaurant, Kan Pacific, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Tori HIDE, Mayor of Saipan, Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, Tropex Garden, Saipan Marine, Saiship Company. KL Carr, Hit Tours. Team PDI, Marianas Visitors Authority, Tan Holdings Company, Magic 100, PTI, Saipan Tailor Shop, Herman's Bakery/MITA Travel (Juan Guerrero), Hertz Rent a Car, Cesar Dumatol, and Lee Cabrerra.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament fourth place Jess Wabol receives his cash prize from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament fifth place Manny Tenorio receives his prizes from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament sixth place Mariano Bermudes receives his prizes from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament seventh place Joji Taguchi receives his prizes from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament ninth place Gerald Guerrero receives his prizes from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament 10th place George Sablan receives his prizes from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament ninth place and hole No. 7 closest to the pin Joe Tudela receives his prizes from Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor's Office public information officer Anthony Benavente and the reigning Liberation Royal Princess.

Wakai Nekko No Kai golf tourney raises close to 5K

Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament almost reached its fundraising target of $5,000.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mets, Twins agree on Johan Santana trade

Johan Santana is a contract extension and physical from joining the New York Mets. Beating out the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, the Mets reached a tentative agreement Tuesday.

24

Tsunami Saipan now part of NMSF

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

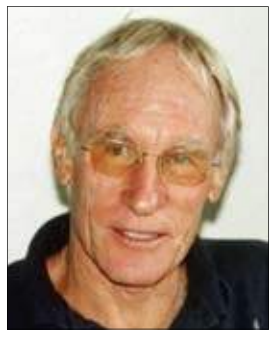
The fledgling Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center is now a member of the CNMI's swimming governing body, the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation.

NMSF president Willem "Bill" Sakovich relayed the good news in a recent letter to Tsunami Saipan president Stanley Good IV.

"I am in receipt of your request to become a member of the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation, and join the Saipan Swim Club, becoming the second member of the NMSF. Upon review of the supporting documents sent to me, and in accordance with the requirements of membership as outlined in the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation, Article V, Membership, I am pleased to accept your application," said Sakovich, who used to be the head coach of SSC.

Sakovich, who with his wife Jean founded the SSC more than 30 years ago, said that with Tsunami Saipan becoming the second member of the federation, it will now have to work closely with the more established SSC in the selection of swimmers that would represent the CNMI in off-island competition.

"I do want to emphasize, that both clubs must work together as the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation in the selection of swimmers and coaches for major international competition, or other events requiring participation by a Northern Marianas Team."



Sakovich

Sakovich said effective immediately, or by Jan. 30, 2008, the Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center will be considered a full member of the NMSF.

"You are encouraged to meet with the board of directors of the Saipan Swim Club to form an updated board for the NMSF," he said.

Sakovich added that he will be on Saipan in the first week of March 2008 and would be able to meet with both officials of Tsunami Saipan and SSC, "and help implement the new board."

The Sakoviches made Saipan their home for more than 30 years before moving to Hilo, Hawaii, a couple of years ago. Both are members of the first batch of the NMASA Sports Hall of Fame.

"Congratulations on your membership and thank you for continuing the further development of swimming in the Northern Mariana Islands," concluded Sakovich in his letter to Good.

Menudo sizzles past Ol'Aces

JON PEREZ

Ol'Aces' Jesus Iguel and Luis Iguel try to block a spike by Menudo's Tyce Mister in their Tuesday night's game in the Men's Winter Indoor Volleyball game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Menudo sizzled to its second straight win after scoring a three-set sweep of Ol'Aces, 25-16, 25-20, 15-10, in Tuesday night's game in the Men's Indoor Volleyball Winter League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the fourth overall in five games for Menudo to remain on top of the nine-team cast, while the loss dropped Ol'Aces to a tie with No Fear and Fanians from fifth to seventh spots with similar 2-2 slates.

See MENUDO on Page 26

Lee off to ITF Junior events in New Zealand

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Almost two months after CNMI junior netters Thea Minor and Ji Hoon Heo competed in separate International Tennis Federation tournaments, another local tennis player will try her luck in the international scene.

Local youth netter Vivian Lee leaves for New Zealand today to join two ITF Grade IV events in Christchurch and Wellington in February. She leaves at 6am today taking a direct flight to Japan.

From Japan, Lee will board a flight to Hong Kong where she will take a connecting flight to Auckland, New Zealand. From Auckland, she will head directly to Christchurch to prepare for the SunSmart 18-and-under Canterbury Championships.

The Canterbury Championships, an outdoor hard court event, will run from Feb. 4 to 9 at Scenic Circle Hotels Tennis Center at Wilding Park.

Lee, who two years ago also competed in ITF junior events in Malaysia and Brunei, said she got lucky when she got into the main draw of the Canterbury Championships.

The 15-year-old Lee is among the 51 players in the main draw along with Abigail Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea and Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, who are ranked 515 and 1,469 in the world junior rankings.

Lee, a sophomore at Grace Christian Academy, said she does not know any of her opponents. "I will get to know them come game day. I don't know any of their styles or how they play.

Lee, who is part of the North Pacific team in 2006, will again be traveling alone in the tournament. "I have been competing internationally since I was 11 years old and I always travel alone."

She will be competing in the singles and doubles events in both tourna-

See LEE on Page 26

Vivian Lee prepares to make a forehand return in her final training session with trainer/coach Lope Padilla yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.

JON PEREZ

MARK RABAGO

Cooper Graf, left, and Rezne Wong are in the blocks waiting for the start of their event in this file photo from the 2007 All Schools Swim Meet. The Saipan Swim Club will host the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet this weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Two events in three days for SSC this weekend

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

It will be a very busy weekend for the Saipan Swim Club.

SSC head coach Michael Stewart said the organization will hold its 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1 and 2, at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The meet starts at 4:30pm on Friday and 9am on Saturday. Friday's schedule of events include the 100m breastroke, 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke, and 400m freestyle.

Saturday, meanwhile, will consist of the 50m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 50m breastroke, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and 100m butterfly.

Stewart said he has invited teams from around the world to participate in the meet via e-mail or what is called a "virtual meet."

"They swim in their pool send me results, and I tabulate them for final results and awards," he said.

Teams from the U.S., Guam, Japan, Palau, and Marshall Islands have com-

See TWO on Page 26